

VET NET Newsletter
April 2025



VETERANS' OUTREACH



Serving our veterans in Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, West Virginia &
New York since 1994

**A Salute Long Overdue
Honoring Our Vietnam Veterans**



This month, we reflect on a war that forever changed the lives of the men and women who served in Vietnam. As April 30th marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, we honor those brave souls who fought not only overseas but also at home, upon their return.

Unlike the fanfare that welcomed home World War II veterans, Vietnam veterans often returned to a divided nation. Many came back wounded, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, only to face judgment, resentment, and even hatred. Peace signs were met with middle fingers. They were spit at, called names like "baby killers," and made to feel like enemies in their own country.

Some were even denied membership to the VFW, told that Vietnam wasn't a "war," but merely a "conflict." Despite the 58,000 lives lost, and countless more forever altered, these heroes were too often left in the shadows.

In a recent round table hosted by Veterans' Outreach, a small group of Vietnam veterans gathered to share their experiences. Though the event was intimate, the impact was immense. Hosted by John Ely, the session gave space to voices long unheard. It was a meaningful time of sharing, healing, and honoring.

Among the attendees were the Parkhurst brothers, three siblings who all served in Vietnam. One was a helicopter pilot and the other was a helicopter navigator. Both were recipients of honors like the Distinguished Flying Cross. One of them even wrote a book chronicling his time in service. Their stories were nothing short of remarkable, filled with courage, patriotism, and a resilient love for their country.

Two other veterans, thoughtfully gathered by Cindy, added their voices to the round table. One of them was Ron, whose experiences deeply resonated with the group. Talia, capturing the event's essence, left with ample material to help us continue telling these important stories.

But there is more to honor beyond medals and missions. The battle many Vietnam veterans faced upon returning home was its own kind of war. The media's portrayal, the public's perception, and the moral injury inflicted by rejection led to deep emotional trauma, what we now know as PTSD.

Many were also exposed to chemicals like Agent Orange, a toxic legacy that continues

to claim lives to this day.

My own brother, Richard, served during the Vietnam War. He guarded the DMZ with a grenade launcher in hand. He rarely spoke about what he saw—only when the weight of memory loosened under the haze of drink. He told of guarding crashed satellites, of hearing Christmas music blared by the enemy in psychological warfare, and of brutal acts committed by foreign forces. These stories weren't shared lightly—only when they demanded to be released.

Richard suffered from a rare blood disorder caused by Agent Orange, and his blood was thinner than water. He would bleed through his gums and skin, soaking through tissues as though he were unraveling from the inside. It nearly took his life more than once. Eventually, it did.

These are the stories many of our veterans carry silently. Stories of horror, yes, but also of profound strength, service, and sacrifice.

So this April 30th, as we commemorate the end of the Vietnam War, let us do what should have been done all those years ago: Honor them. Thank them. Embrace them.

When you see a Vietnam veteran, don't just nod—shake their hand. Look them in the eye. Raise your glass. Let them know they are seen, they are valued, and they are loved.

Because for far too long, they weren't.

To all our Vietnam Veterans: we salute you. We remember you. We thank you.

God bless our veterans!

John Ely
President Veterans' Outreach

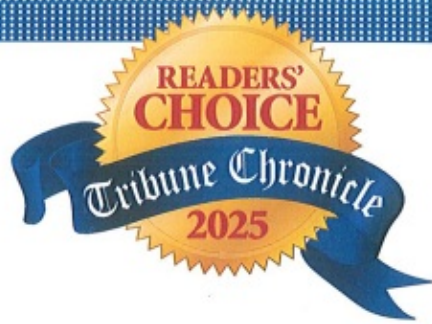
Our Programs For Veterans

Over the last 30 years, we have helped veterans more than 100,000 times. Our motto is to "respectfully serve and honor all veterans".

We have developed programs that perform our mission to help veterans that include the Direct Aid Program, the Outreach Program, the Heroes' Closet Program, and the Freedom Food Pantry Program.

[Read More →](#)

**We Are Nominated For Readers Choice
Award From Tribune Chronicle**



CONTEST TIMELINE

Dates to Know

- 2/16-2/23/25** Nomination Period
- 2/3/25** Sales open for first voting round advertising
- 3/7/25** Sales close for first voting round advertising
- 3/30/25** First voting Round publication announcing nominees
- 3/30-4/6/25** First Voting Round open
- 4/8/25** Sales open for final voting round advertising
- 5/2/25** Sales close for final voting round advertising
- 5/18/25** Final voting Round publication announcing the Top 5
- 5/18-5/25/25** Final Voting Round open
- 5/27/25** Sales open for Winners and Finalists publication
- 6/27/25** Sales close for Winners and Finalists publication
- 7/13/25** Winners and Finalists announced in publication and on website

Tribune Chronicle

For more information, contact your Account Representative: 330-841-1700

Gold Star Spouses Day

Gold Star Spouses Day is observed annually on April 5th to honor the surviving spouses of fallen service members, recognizing their sacrifices and offering support and remembrance.

*Gold Star Spouses' Day is April 5th,
but every day should be a day
of remembrance for the fallen.*



Never forget.

#GoldStarWivesDay
#GoldStarSpouses



Come On In!

GREAT FINDS FOR EVERYONE!

CLOTHING * FURNITURE * ANTIQUES * & MORE!

Sales Benefit Veterans Financial Services

20% Discount to Veterans

Vouchers Available for Veterans in Need by Request

Open Monday-Wednesday & Saturday!

17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH

10am-4pm



VITAL SERVICES



17 Colonial Drive Youngstown, Oh
Monday - Wednesday & Saturday 10AM-4PM

Youngstown Foundation Event Center

Located at Veterans' Outreach,
17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505

Book Your Event Today!

- 4,000 sq ft of space
- Perfect for any occasion
- Kitchen available
- Tables and chairs provided for up to 80 guests
- Available for bookings on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with some evening availability during the week
- All proceeds benefit Veterans' Outreach
- Accessible bathrooms on-site
- Call for pricing and availability

tely@veteransoutreach.org

330-755-5792 x2

Support our veterans and book your event at the Youngstown Foundation Event Center today!



Home Depot in Salem

Month of April

A food collection box for Veterans' Outreach

**WE WANT YOU
AT THE**



**YOUNGSTOWN
TATTOO CLASSIC**

JUNE 6TH-8TH METROPLEX EXPO CENTER

WE WANT YOU
AT THE

★ METROPLEX EXPO CENTER ★
1620 MOTOR INN DR. GIRARD OH 44420

★2025★
Youngstown
TATTOO CLASSIC

SPONSORED BY: **URBAN'S EDGE**
TATTOO CARE

FEATURING OVER **80** TATTOO ARTISTS!

★ **JUNE 6-8, 2025** ★
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12:00PM-10:00PM
SUNDAY 12:00PM-8:00PM

WALK-INS WELCOME! LIVE TATTOOING,
DAILY TATTOO COMPETITIONS, LOCAL
VENDORS, FOOD TRUCKS AND FULL BAR!

'TATTOOED PSYCHIC MEDIUM'
★ KATHLEEN MOORE ★ EMCEE
★ TOBE DREW! ★

YTOWNCLASSIC.COM
YTOWNTATTOOCLASSIC

MILITARY DISCOUNT
★ 1/2 OFF ★
ADMISSION WITH I.D.

Raymond Chiropractic ★ **Carly's TOWING** ★ **BIKER** BrewHouse, LLC

VA Event Belmont

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Veterans' Outreach is invited to an event hosted by the VA on Belmont.

★ CHINESE AUCTION ★

★ 100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO: ★



★ WINNERS ANNOUNCED SUNDAY JUNE 8TH @4:30PM ★

★ WINNERS DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN! ★
REMAINING BASKETS CAN BE PICKED UP @INTUITIVE INK

★ METROPLEX EXPO CENTER ★ 1620 MOTOR INN DR. GIRARD OH 44420



**Veterans' Outreach Presents Our
3rd Annual**

STARS AND STRIKES

**Bowl-A-Thon to
Benefit Veterans In Need
Sunday, June 1st at Camelot Lanes
628 Boardman-Canfield Rd, Youngstown, OH**



TIME:

**CHECK-IN STARTS AT 1:30 PM
BOWLING (SHOES INCLUDED): 2-4 PM
APPETIZERS & SOFT DRINKS PROVIDED
PIZZA BUFFET & AWARDS: 4-5 PM**

DETAILS:

**COST: \$35 PER PERSON
BASKET AUCTION AND 50/50 RAFFLE!
TEAMS OF 4, ALL AGES WELCOME!
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

RESERVE YOUR SPOTS TODAY!

**ONLINE: WWW.VETERANSOUTREACH.ORG/EVENT/STARS-AND-STRIKES/
MAIL OR STOP BY: 17 COLONIAL DRIVE, YOUNGSTOWN 44505
CALL: 330-755-5792 EXT. 2
EMAIL: TELY@VETERANSOUTREACH.ORG**

SIGN UP TODAY!

TEAM SPONSOR/TEAM NAME:

BOWLERS:

1. -----

2. -----

3. -----

4. -----

CAPTAIN & CAPTAIN'S CELL PHONE #:

**MAIL THIS FORM WITH CHECK TO:
VETERANS' OUTREACH
17 COLONIAL DRIVE
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44505**





ABATE Dice Run
Saturday, July 26, 2025

**10th Annual Golf Scramble at Bedford Trails
Golf Course**
Friday, September 12, 2025

Support For Our Veterans

Your generosity has been instrumental in propelling Veterans' Outreach toward new heights, and we extend our deepest thanks for your continued commitment to our mission.

Thank You, Walmart Foundation!



Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the Walmart Foundation for their continued

generosity and unwavering commitment to veterans in need. Their support has allowed us to expand our programs and services, providing crucial assistance to those who have served our country. With their help, we can ensure that veterans receive the care, stability, and resources they deserve. Thank you for making a real difference!

A Heartfelt Thanks to TCC Gives!



We extend our sincere appreciation to TCC Gives for their generous support of our mission. Their contributions have directly impacted the lives of veterans by helping us provide essential aid, from food and housing assistance to emergency financial relief. TCC Gives' commitment to giving back strengthens our ability to serve those who have sacrificed for our freedom. Thank you for your kindness and dedication!

Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust



Charitable Service Trust

Donor Spotlight: DAV Charitable Service Trust

Empowering Hope with a \$25,000 Grant

Veterans' Outreach is proud to recognize the DAV Charitable Service Trust's incredible generosity and unwavering commitment to veterans. We are honored to have received a \$25,000 grant from the Trust to assist veterans facing critical challenges.

This impactful contribution will directly support essential services, including:

- Emergency financial aid
- Housing and utility assistance
- Food and nutrition programs
- Medical expense support

Thanks to the DAV Charitable Service Trust, we can expand our reach across our registered service states and provide hope, stability, and dignity to veterans in need. From all of us at Veterans' Outreach, and the many veterans whose lives will be touched, thank you to the DAV Charitable Service Trust for being a true force for good.

Meijer's Generosity is Changing Lives!



A special thank you to Meijer for their incredible generosity and dedication to supporting veterans in need. Through their contributions, we are able to provide vital services that uplift and empower those who have served our nation. Meijer's commitment to community impact is truly inspiring, and we are honored to have them as a partner in this mission. Together, we are making a lasting difference!

CSX: Driving Support for Our Veterans



We are incredibly grateful to CSX for funding a portion of the Veterans' Outreach Empowerment Initiative. Their support ensures that veterans receive life-changing assistance, including housing, food, medical aid, and emergency relief. CSX has a long history of standing with veterans, and their generosity helps us continue our mission of providing a hand up, not a handout. Thank you, CSX, for your dedication to those who have served!

Thank You to Ohio State Eagles Club #2178!

Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the Ohio State Eagles Club #2178 from Ashland, Ohio, for their generous donation of \$5,000. Your support plays a vital role in helping us continue to serve and support our veterans. We are honored to have you as a partner in our mission and truly appreciate your commitment to making a difference in the lives of those who have served our country. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Grant Received from the Trumbull County Commissioners



We are beyond excited to announce that the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission has generously provided a grant for \$90,000 to our cause. This substantial contribution will be pivotal in expanding our services and resources for veterans in need. The grant underscores the importance of our mission and provides a significant boost to our efforts in making a lasting difference in the lives of those who have served our country. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission for their incredible support.

The Youngstown Foundation



Donor Spotlight: The Youngstown Foundation Fuels Our Mission!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news—The Youngstown Foundation has generously awarded Veterans' Outreach a \$30,000 grant to help us purchase a brand-new box truck for our donation pick-ups!

Thanks to their incredible support, we were able to purchase the truck last week, and we're already hard at work designing a custom wrap that will proudly represent our mission as we serve the community.

This box truck is a game-changer for us. It allows us to more efficiently collect essential donations—furniture, food, clothing, and household items—that directly support veterans and their families. With more space, better reliability, and improved visibility, this truck will help us reach more veterans in need than ever before.

To The Youngstown Foundation: thank you from the bottom of our hearts for investing in our work. Your generosity helps keep our wheels turning and allows us to continue honoring and assisting those who served.

Stay tuned for updates as we unveil the truck's new look soon!

Hollywood Gaming



For years now, Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course has been a steadfast supporter of ours. We are so grateful for them and their kindness. These much-needed funds go towards renovating our new building location. Thank you, Hollywood Gaming!

Donate Now

We thank all of you that have supported our Mission through your donations, thoughts, and prayers. You made it possible to **help tens of thousands of Veterans** with financial assistance, food, and clothing. Your pledge of support is needed to

continue our mission to serve and honor all veterans. Will you make a small monthly pledge of \$10 or more? This gift can immediately make a difference for a Veteran in need.



Donate Now



You can also call 888-2-VET-NET and speak with Teri Ely to donate.

We put together a successful fundraiser for Paul Artur at our Corporate Office.



News

March



Month of the Military Child
Entire Month of April

Military Saves Month
Entire Month of April

April Fool's Day
April 1

Gold Star Spouses Day
April 5

National Former POW Recognition Day
April 9

Passover
April 12 to April 20, 2025

Air Force Reserve Birthday
April 14

Purple Up! Day
April 15

Good Friday

Discounts



[Find Discounts →](#)

**Veterans Are Rushing To Get These
Benefits & Discounts For 2025
(Check If You're Eligible)**

A vast number of Veterans have not yet received these benefits and discounts. Most are missing out simply because they don't know what to do. Here's a list of top benefits and special offers that could put several thousands dollars back into your pocket this year. Get them right now before it's too late.

April 18, 2025

Easter
April 20, 2025

Earth Day
April 22

Army Reserve Birthday
April 23

National Military Brats Day
April 30

Heroes' Passage In Kentucky

Veterans' Outreach was donated 110 acres of Kentucky wilderness. Plans are underway for the development of Heroes' Passage, a veteran retreat with a healing environment for veterans that are having problems with transitioning to civilian life.



[Read More →](#)



Veterans' Outreach



Ohio	Alabama	Florida	Kentucky	New York
Corporate	807 Midway St.	5650 Park Blvd. N	512 E. Main St.	P: (888) 283-8638
17 Colonial Drive	Hartselle, AL	Ste. 3	Grayson, KY 41143	West VA
Youngstown, OH	35640	Pinellas Park, FL	P: (606) 475-0216	P: (888) 283-8638
44505	P: (256) 778-3266	33781	F: (606) 475-0217	
Phone: 888-	F: (256) 778-	P: (727) 317-3712		
2VETNET	03267	F: (727) 317-3713		
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