

VET NET Newsletter
August 2025



VETERANS' OUTREACH



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

Victory! Americans Everywhere Celebrated the End of World War II in 1945

President Harry S. Truman watched the clock closely, wanting to abide by the agreement to make the historic announcement at the same time as our Allies in London and Moscow.

At exactly 7 p.m. Eastern War Time on August 14, 1945, Truman revealed Japan's response to the Allied demand for unconditional surrender.

The announcement the world had been waiting for came just days after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the opening shots of the nuclear era. The Emperor of Japan, the statement read, had agreed to unconditional surrender to the Allies. The President then appointed Gen. Douglas MacArthur Supreme Commander in Japan and the Pacific, who would officially accept Japan's surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

The euphoria that erupted on May 8 when Truman announced Germany's unconditional surrender, ending the war in Europe, erupted again, this time more full-throated than before. The Second World War, the deadliest and most destructive war in history, referred to by generations simply as "The War" was finally over.

Ships loaded with war-weary veterans of the European theater headed for Japan could turn back. The massive casualties predicted for an invasion of the Japanese mainland would not happen. Children who had never seen their fathers, uncles, or big brothers would soon see them coming home in uniforms with duffel bags on their shoulders. The rationing of everything from gasoline to food would come to an end. No more blackouts. No more round-the-clock watching for enemy planes or submarines.

The Cost of Victory

When the war ended, an estimated 70–85 million people, about 3% of the world's population, had died in battle, from starvation or disease, or as victims of crimes against humanity. The toll included approximately 21–25 million military personnel and 50–55 million civilians worldwide.

For the United States, the roster of war dead numbered around 420,000, in Europe,

North Africa, the Pacific, and elsewhere. This was about three-tenths of one percent of the U.S. population at the time, yet nearly every American city, town, village, and rural area felt the loss. More than 16 million Americans served during the war, and as of 2024, fewer than 66,000 WWII veterans remain alive, less than 0.5% of all who served.

A Nation Rejoices

Within minutes of Truman's announcement, people began celebrating, spontaneously and enthusiastically, in every corner of the country.

In New York City, two million people squeezed into Times Square, showered with paper, dancing in conga lines, and kissing strangers in pure relief. The celebration continued for several days. In Chicago, a man climbed a ladder to light an 18-foot-tall solid wax victory candle that had taken three months to make. In the downtown Loop, a half-million people sang and danced in the streets.

The New Era

Amid the celebrations and homecomings was a sobering realization: the abrupt end to the war had also ushered in the nuclear age, with all its possibilities and fears that the next war could be even more deadly.

America's vast industrial sector, which had been producing bombers, tanks, and rifles, now began converting to automobiles, household appliances, and a new technology that would change everyday life, television. Returning servicemen and women married and started families, creating the "baby boom" generation. The GI Bill opened the doors to homeownership and higher education for millions, opportunities previously limited to the upper classes.

Yet challenges lay ahead: labor unrest as veterans sought jobs, unions demanded higher wages, and the nation adjusted to peacetime. But the fighting and killing were over. For now.

Veterans' Outreach President and Founder

John Ely, son of Pearl Harbor survivor **William Ely** (deceased 2004), pays tribute to the generation that fought, sacrificed, and won, honoring the greatest nation of all.

Credit: Jim Worsham, Editor of Prologue Magazine

With pride,
John Ely
President & Founder
Veterans' Outreach

Our Programs For Veterans

Over the last 31 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 →](#)



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!





VETERANS' OUTREACH

10TH ANNUAL

GOLF SCRAMBLE

2025

**9AM SHOTGUN START
18 HOLES & A CART - GAMES
50/50 - BASKET RAFFLE
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
BEVERAGE CART
LIGHT LUNCH - DINNER BUFFET**

**ENTRY FEE:
\$90/PERSON OR \$360/TEAM**

**REGISTER TODAY!
VETERANS' OUTREACH
📍 17 COLONIAL DRIVE,
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44505
SIGN UP ONLINE:
[VETERANSOUTREACH.ORG/
ANNUAL-GOLF-SCRAMBLE](https://veteransoutreach.org/annual-golf-scramble)
OR CALL TO REGISTER:
☎ 330-755-5792 EXT. 2**

**12 SEPTEMBER,
2025**

**BEDFORD TRAILS
GOLF COURSE**

📍 713 Bedford Road, Lowellville, OH 44436

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, Giant Eagle!



Veterans' Outreach is honored to receive a \$1,000 Giant Eagle gift card donation to support our mission of serving veterans in need.

We are deeply grateful for Giant Eagle's generosity and commitment to giving back to those who have served our country. Partnerships like this help us continue to provide essential support to veterans and their families.

Thank you, Giant Eagle, for standing with our heroes!

Thank You, Texas Roadhouse!



We are filled with gratitude for the generous support we've received from Texas Roadhouse in honor of our mission to serve veterans. Their unexpected kindness and commitment to giving back to the community have deeply touched our hearts.

Donations like theirs help us continue our work, meeting the urgent needs of veterans and their families with dignity, respect, and compassion. Whether it's food, housing support, or essential services, every bit of help strengthens our ability to make a real difference.

Thank you, Texas Roadhouse, for standing with our heroes. Your generosity reminds us that great things happen when community and purpose come together.

Thank You, Redstone Arsenal

Redstone Arsenal



Military & Civilians' Club

Veterans' Outreach is honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Redstone Arsenal Military & Civilians' Club (RSAMCC) Community Assistance Grant for 2024–2025! Thank you, RSAMCC, for awarding us \$1,500 to support our Veterans Empowerment Initiative in Hartselle, AL. Your generosity helps us continue providing vital services to veterans in need, including emergency assistance, employment support, and personal development programs. We are deeply grateful for your support and belief in 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.**



Help Local Veterans Now! 888-2VET-NET * VeteransOutreach.org
CASH * CARS * REAL ESTATE * VOLUNTEER * HOST A FOOD DRIVE * LEGACY GIFT

Donate Now



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

News

August

Discounts



Antiterrorism Awareness Month

Coast Guard Day
Aug 4th

Purple Heart Day
Aug 7th

U.S. Department of Defense
Birthday
Aug 10th

Agent Orange Awareness
Aug 10th

Navajo Code Talkers Day
Aug 14th

National Airborne Day
Aug 16th

Marine Corps Reserve Birthday
Aug 29th



Discounts For Veterans

Many businesses offer discounts to veterans, including restaurants, retail stores, hotels, and travel companies. Some popular options include discounts at [Apple](#), [Adidas](#), [Bass Pro Shops](#), and [Home Depot](#). Additionally, companies like [Avis](#) and [Amtrak](#) offer discounts on car rentals and train travel, respectively.

Here's a more detailed breakdown of some common veteran discounts:

Retail:

- Clothing & Shoes: [Nike](#), [Adidas](#), [Carhartt](#), [Champion](#), [Vinyard Vines](#), and [Helly Hansen](#) offer discounts.
- Home Improvement: [Home Depot](#) and [Lowe's](#) offer a 10% discount, [according to YouTube](#).
- Outdoor & Sporting Goods: [Bass Pro Shops](#), [Cabela's](#), [Dickies](#), and [ASICS](#) offer discounts.
- Other: [Target](#), [GameStop](#), and [Joann/Michaels](#) also offer discounts [according to YouTube](#).

Restaurants:

- [Applebee's](#): Offers discounts at participating locations, [says Veterans Guide](#).
- [Chick-fil-A](#): Some locations offer a daily discount or a free meal on Military Appreciation Days.

Travel:

- [Avis](#): Offers discounts on car rentals, [according to Avis](#).
- [Amtrak](#): Offers discounts for active duty military and veterans [says the 132d Wing \(.mil\)](#).
- [Hotels.com](#) & [Expedia](#): Offer discounts for military members.

Other:

- [Apple](#): Offers a 10% discount on products.
- [AT&T](#): Offers a 25% discount on eligible unlimited wireless plans.
- [Costco](#): Offers a shop card to new members who verify their military status, [according to Military.com](#).
- [Verizon](#): Offers discounts on internet plans.

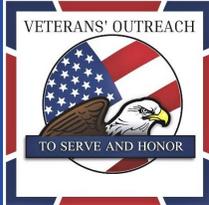
To find even more discounts, you can check out websites like [ID.me Shop](#), [DAV : Disabled American Veterans](#), and [U.S. Veterans Magazine](#). Many businesses also offer their own verification systems, often through [ID.me](#), to confirm eligibility for discounts.

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



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