

VET NET Newsletter
November 2025

**THANK
YOU**



**FOR YOUR
SERVICE**

VETERANS' OUTREACH



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

The Stars That Speak: Honoring Service,
Sacrifice, and Strength



By John Ely, Founder of Veterans' Outreach

When you see a banner with stars hanging in someone's front window, you might think it's just a piece of patriotic décor, but it's so much more than that. Those stars tell a story. They represent pride, courage, and sometimes, heartbreak.

They're called Service Flags, and they carry a deep meaning that stretches back over a century. Each one features a white field with a red border, and inside, you'll see stars; blue, silver, or gold. Each color has a message:

- Blue stars shine for hope and pride, representing a family member currently serving.
- Silver stars represent gallantry, a recognition of wounds or sacrifice in combat.
- Gold stars stand for the ultimate sacrifice, a life given for honor and freedom.

These flags first appeared during World War I, created in 1917 by Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner, an Ohio native who had two sons serving overseas. The design caught the eye of Ohio's governor, who adopted it as a symbol for families with loved ones in the armed forces. From that moment on, the tradition spread across America, and it still lives on today.

Families who display these flags aren't just showing support; they're wearing their hearts on their sleeves. Only immediate family members; spouses, parents, children, siblings, and step or adopted family; are authorized to display them. Some flags hold one star, others as many as five. Gold stars are placed above or to the right of blue ones, always holding that position of solemn honor.

There's an unspoken power in those stars. When I see them, I don't just see symbols. I see lives, service, and stories that define our nation's strength.

At U.S. Central Command, a moving tradition takes place to honor those who've fallen. Service members line the streets, saluting as their comrades make their final journey home. In some ceremonies, Swarovski gold star pendants are presented to families, delicate but dazzling reminders that their loved one's light will never fade. It's impossible not to feel the weight of that moment; gut-wrenching and humbling all at once.

My own family carries its own stars: one blue and three silver. We display them proudly, not for recognition but for remembrance. Each star tells a story of duty, courage, and faith. We cherish them deeply, just as we cherish every man and woman who has worn our nation's uniform.

Military service does not come without sacrifice. Every family who hangs a service flag knows this truth personally. Behind every star, blue, silver, or gold, there's a home that's waited, prayed, and hoped. There's love, fear, and above all, pride.

So the next time you pass a window and see a service flag, take a moment to think about the story behind it. Those stars aren't just decorations; they're symbols of America's beating heart.

God bless our veterans, and God bless America.

John Ely
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**.

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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
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- 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!



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.**



[Donate Now](#)



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

News

[November](#)

[Discounts](#)



National Veterans and Military Family Month

Month Of November

Warrior Care Month

Month Of November

National Family Caregivers

Month Of November

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 2nd

Marine Corps Day

November 10th

Veterans Day

November 11th

Armistice / Remembrance Day

November 11th

Thanksgiving Day

November 27th



2025 Veterans Day Free Meals and Restaurant Deals and Discounts

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Veterans Day Free Meals

To honor members of the military, these restaurants are offering veterans free meals or beverages on or around Veterans Day, November 11.

[Another Broken Egg Cafe](#) -- for dine-in guests presenting a valid Military ID.

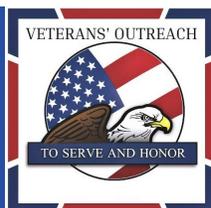
[Applebee's](#) -- Veteran and active-duty military receive a free meal from a select menu on November 11 at participating locations. Dine-in only.

[Beef 'O' Brady's](#) -- On November 11, at participating locations, veterans and active-duty military can receive a free burger and fries. Not valid with any other offer, discount, promotion or purchase of gift cards.

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.

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[Veterans' Outreach](#)



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