

VET NET Newsletter
December 2025

**Happy Holidays
To Our Veterans!**





VETERANS' OUTREACH



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

Lest We Never Forget: A Pearl Harbor Survivor's Legacy

By John Ely, President & Founder, Veterans' Outreach

On the calm Sunday morning of December 7, 1941, the quiet of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was shattered by a sudden aerial assault launched by the Imperial Japanese Navy. In less than two hours, waves of Japanese aircraft struck battleships, airfields, and military installations across the harbor. The attack killed 2,403 Americans and wounded more than 1,000 others. The devastation drew the United States into World War II and became one of the most defining moments in our nation's history.

Battleships lay broken, aircraft burned on runways, and entire crews fought for their lives amid fire, smoke, and chaos. The USS Arizona, where more than 1,100 sailors perished, still rests beneath the water today as a solemn memorial to those who fell.

Amid this historic tragedy stood William Gordon "Bill" Ely, a young serviceman from Gallipolis, Ohio. Born into hard work on his family's farm and shaped by the trials of the Great Depression, Bill enlisted in the military at just 17 years old, lying about his age so he could serve his country. After training and a tour through the South Pacific, he was stationed at Pearl Harbor only months before the attack.

In a letter home to his mother, Bill wrote that he had "found paradise," telling her about fishing, enjoying the beaches, and spending time with fellow servicemen. On the morning of December 7, fate placed him on the porch of his barracks recovering from an upset stomach—delaying him just long enough to avoid the initial explosions at his duty station.

When the attack began, Bill, a trained medic, immediately ran toward the danger. He drove his ambulance through strafing gunfire to reach the wounded, treating as many as he could even after being injured himself. He dove into the burning, oil-covered harbor to pull trapped sailors to safety. With hospitals overwhelmed, Bill stayed by the side of the injured for days. One severely burned serviceman survived because Bill

administered blood and glucose continuously, changed his bandages, and even slept beside him to keep him warm and prevent shock. That young man's mother later wrote Bill a heartfelt letter thanking him for saving her son's life, and her gratitude helped inspire a Red Cross blood-donation campaign.

After the war, Bill continued his service by helping establish the Columbus Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and supporting the creation of several other chapters across the country. His Pearl Harbor coat and personal artifacts are now preserved at Mott's Military Museum near Columbus, where his legacy is shared with future generations.

Today, as the number of living Pearl Harbor survivors becomes fewer each year, stories like Bill's become even more important. They remind us of courage, sacrifice, and the price of freedom.

At Veterans' Outreach, we carry forward those same values. For more than 30 years, our organization has helped veterans hundreds of thousands of times across six states, inspired in part by the example Bill set. His legacy lives on through his family's continuing service and through every veteran whose life is changed by our mission.

Lest we forget—today and always—we honor William Gordon Ely and all who served at Pearl Harbor.

John Ely
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Smart Saving Center

10+ Benefits Veterans Are Entitled to in 2025 But Often Forget to Claim!

Stop overpaying for essentials like insurance, prescriptions, and utilities? It's not because better deals aren't out there.

[Read More](#)

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](#).

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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!



Events



A Huge Thank You to Chick-fil-A Tiffany Square Plaza!

We're so grateful for their Cookie for a Cause event happening Saturday,
December 13 — ALL DAY LONG!

Location: Chick-fil-A Tiffany Square Plaza, 1110 Boardman-Poland Rd, Poland, OH 44514

Hours (Saturday): 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM

For every cookie sold, \$1 will be donated to Veterans' Outreach Freedom Food Pantry, helping us continue serving local veterans and their families.

Grab a cookie — support a hero!

Please share and help us spread the word!

Saturday December 13th



DINE TO DONATE

»» *Support* ««

**VETERAN'S OUTREACH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
11AM-3PM**



10%
DONATION NIGHT

for **Veteran's Outreach**.

Present this flyer at the Boardman location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **Veteran's Outreach!**

330-726-1100
1221 BOARDMAN POLAND ROAD
YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Friday December 19th



FUNDRAISING

⇒⇒ *Support* ⇐⇐

VETERANS' OUTREACH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

3PM-10PM



10%

DONATION NIGHT

for **Veterans' Outreach**.

Present this flyer at the Niles location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **Veterans' Outreach!**

330-349-9488

**2260 NILES-CORTLAND ROAD SE
WARREN, OH**

Join The Trail!



THE 2026

THRIFT TRAIL

Where Every Purchase Does GOOD!

JANUARY 12 TO MARCH 31ST



Get your map!



Get your Trail Map: www.GoodwillYoungstown.org

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 to Northwood Realty Charitable Foundation!



Veterans' Outreach would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the **Northwood Realty Charitable Foundation** for hosting the **Thanks for Giving Purse Bash** to benefit our mission.

Because of their incredible effort and generosity, the event raised nearly \$15,000 to support veteran housing needs. This remarkable impact was made possible by their dedication, hard work, and belief in the mission of helping those who served.

We are proud to recognize the Northwood Realty Charitable Foundation as an outstanding community partner and sponsor. Their contribution will make a meaningful difference in the lives of local veterans.

Thank you for standing with Veterans' Outreach!

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, 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!

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.

Thank You to Ohio State Eagles Club #2178!

Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the Ohio State Eagles Club #2178 from Ashland, Ohio. 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 Fuels Our Mission!



We are proud to highlight the tremendous support of The Youngstown Foundation, whose generous \$30,000 grant made it possible for Veterans' Outreach to purchase our box truck, an investment that has already transformed the way we serve veterans.

The truck has now been fully wrapped, and the finished design is absolutely beautiful. Even more importantly, it has been in active use for months, quickly proving to be an incredible asset to our mission.

This truck allows us to efficiently collect essential donations, furniture, food, clothing, and household items, that directly support veterans and their families. Its capacity, reliability, and visibility have strengthened our outreach efforts and expanded our ability to respond to the needs of the community.

To The Youngstown Foundation: thank you for helping fuel our mission. Your generosity continues to make a meaningful impact every single day, mile after mile.

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

December



Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary)
Birthday December 1

#GivingTuesday
Tuesday after Thanksgiving
(December 2, 2025)

National Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day
December 7

U.S. National Guard Birthday
December 13

National Wreaths Across
America
December 13

Discounts



Where To Find Discounts For
Veterans Online

When it comes to special offers and discounts, your status as a veteran or active-duty service member gets you special discounts at retailers, restaurants, services and more offer special benefits for veterans and military and their families every day of the year.

Fitness

Education

Electronics and Gadgets

Hanukkah Begins
December 14 – December 22,

2025 Christmas Day
December 25

Kwanzaa
December 26–January 1, 2026

New Year's Eve
December 31, 2025

Home and Garden
Clothing
Shoes
Jewelry and Accessories
Eye Care

[Read More →](#)

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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