

VET NET Newsletter

March 2026



VETERANS' OUTREACH



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

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

Our Military End Game for the U.S. and Iran

When the news talks about war, it's often discussed in terms of strategy, weapons systems, and geopolitics. But for those of us connected to the military community, it means something more personal. Behind every operation are the men and women

who serve, the families who wait at home, and the veterans who know exactly what those headlines really mean.

Over the past few weeks, the question of what the endgame might look like between the United States and Iran has moved from a distant policy debate to something much more real.

In late February 2026, the United States and Israel launched coordinated strikes against Iranian military targets in an operation known as Operation Epic Fury. The first wave focused on missile systems, air defenses, naval facilities, and locations connected to Iran's nuclear program. Reports indicated that several senior Iranian officials were killed during those early strikes, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, forcing a rapid shift in leadership inside Iran.

Since then, tensions across the region have grown. Iran has responded with missile and drone attacks, and commercial shipping routes in the Persian Gulf have already felt the effects. The Strait of Hormuz, one of the most important oil transit points in the world, has seen disruptions that pushed energy prices upward and reminded everyone just how quickly events in one part of the world can ripple across the globe.

With all of this unfolding, a simple question naturally comes to mind: how does something like this end?

Military strategists often talk about three possible paths.

The first is sometimes called the "defanging" strategy. In plain terms, it means weakening Iran's ability to threaten other nations without trying to occupy the country itself.

Iran is a large nation with rugged terrain and a population of more than eighty-five million people. A full invasion would require an enormous long-term military commitment. After the lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan, most experts believe the United States has little interest in repeating that kind of mission.

Instead, the focus would be on removing Iran's ability to project military power. That means targeting missile systems, drone facilities, naval forces in the Gulf, and the infrastructure connected to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Much of what we have seen so far in Operation Epic Fury appears to follow this approach.

In this scenario, the goal is not necessarily regime change. The objective is to weaken Iran's military capabilities to the point that it can no longer threaten regional stability or move quickly toward nuclear weapons. From there, the strategy would likely return to containment through diplomacy, economic pressure, and continued presence in the region.

The second possibility analysts discuss is internal collapse.

This theory suggests that outside pressure could weaken the Iranian government enough that change eventually comes from within the country itself. Iran has experienced waves of protests over the past decade driven by economic hardship, corruption, and political restrictions.

If key parts of the regime, especially the leadership networks of the Revolutionary Guard, were severely weakened, internal political pressure could grow stronger.

In that case, the conflict might end not because another country removes the government, but because the government loses its ability to maintain control.

The third theory focuses directly on leadership and command structures. Some analysts refer to this as a decapitation strategy.

This approach targets senior leadership and command centers to disrupt the government's ability to coordinate its military and security forces. Some of the early strikes in Operation Epic Fury appear to have included elements of this strategy.

The thinking is that if the ideological leadership structure collapses, Iran's conventional military, known as the Artesh, could step in to stabilize the country. If that were to happen, a transitional government might emerge that seeks a more cooperative relationship with the international community.

Of course, none of these paths comes without risk.

One concern is that Iran could fracture rather than stabilize. The country contains multiple ethnic groups and political divisions. If the central government collapsed suddenly, the result could be years of instability rather than a clear transition.

Another challenge is Iran's network of proxy forces across the Middle East. Even if Iran's military were weakened, allied groups could continue attacks across the region long after the main conflict ends.

And then there is the global economy. The Strait of Hormuz carries a large portion of the world's oil supply. Any prolonged disruption there affects not just governments, but families and businesses everywhere.

At Veterans' Outreach, we see the human side of these global events every day.

When I founded Veterans' Outreach in 1994, it came from a simple belief: the men and women who serve our country should never have to stand alone when they return home. I am not a veteran myself, but I come from a family with several who served, and I felt a strong calling to support the veteran community in any way I could.

Whether it's through the Freedom Food Pantry, Direct Aid for veterans facing emergencies, or simply making sure someone knows they are not forgotten, our mission has always been about standing beside those who stood for our country.

That perspective reminds us of something important.

Wars may begin in briefing rooms and on strategy maps, but they are carried out by people. And when those men and women return home, their service does not simply disappear into history.

The United States has long stood as a force for stability in a complicated world. Our strength as a nation is not just measured by military capability, but by how we care for the people who wear the uniform.

Long after the headlines fade and the debates move on, the responsibility remains. That responsibility is to remember those who served, to support those who sacrificed, and to make sure no veteran ever feels forgotten.

That mission does not end with the news cycle.

And at Veterans' Outreach, it never will.

John Ely
President and Founder

For more information, please call 330-755-5792 or email Jely@veteransoutreach.org.

Please visit veteransoutreach.org, and feel free to reach out with any questions or inquiries: Jely@veteransoutreach.org

Please get to know us. Get involved.
To serve is an honor.

John Ely
President & Founder, Veterans' Outreach
Veterans' Outreach Corporate
17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, Ohio 44505
www.veteransoutreach.org | (330) 755-5792

Veterans' Outreach Awarded 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency

Veterans' Outreach is honored to announce that we have earned the 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, the highest level of recognition a nonprofit can achieve for accountability and openness.

This designation reflects our long-standing commitment to doing things the right way—serving veterans with integrity, stewardship, and respect. The Platinum Seal ensures that our supporters, partners, and the public can clearly see how Veterans' Outreach operates, how resources are used, and the real impact being made for veterans and their families.

For more than three decades, Veterans' Outreach has remained focused on one mission: never turning our backs on veterans in need. Earning this seal affirms that our work is not only driven by heart, but guided by responsibility and transparency.

We invite you to visit our Candid nonprofit profile to learn more about our programs, leadership, and impact:

<https://app.candid.org/profile/7081231/veterans-outreach-22-3272976?>

To our donors, volunteers, and community partners—this recognition belongs to you. Your trust, dedication, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.

Together, we remain committed to honoring service, strengthening lives, and standing up for those who once stood for us.

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

Our Programs For Veterans

Over the last 32 years, we have helped veterans more than 150,000 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!



Events

The 2026 Thrift Trail Has Officially Begun! Jan 12th - Mar 31st

The 2026 Thrift Trail is officially underway, and VO Depot is proud to be a participating stop in this exciting, mission-driven community event! Running from January 12 through March 31, 2026, the Thrift Trail invites supporters to explore thrift stores across the Mahoning Valley that give back in meaningful ways, while enjoying exclusive perks along the route.

As part of the Thrift Trail, participants can stop by VO Depot and receive 20% off their purchase when they present their official Thrift Trail Map at checkout.

How the Thrift Trail Works

Participants purchase an official Thrift Trail Map through Youngstown Area Goodwill with a \$25 or greater donation. Maps are mailed directly to participants and include a hologram authentication sticker.

At each participating thrift store, trail-goers will:

- Present their official map at checkout
- Receive a store-assigned trail mark
- Enjoy a special discount or perk

Once all trail stops are completed, finished maps are submitted to Goodwill's Main Office in Liberty for entry into a Grand Prize Drawing valued at over \$500.

Shop with Purpose

The Thrift Trail celebrates sustainability, collaboration, and community impact. Every stop supports organizations—like Veterans Outreach—that are working every day to serve others and strengthen our region.

We're excited to welcome Thrift Trailers into VO Depot and grateful to be part of this collaborative effort alongside so many other mission-focused organizations. Follow along and share your Thrift Trail journey using #2026ThriftTrail.

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



MARCH
28
2026

**VFW AUXILIARY
TO POST 1079
PRESENTS
OUR 2ND ANNUAL
LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS &
FAMILIES HEALTH & BENEFITS FAIR**

**VFW Post 1079
500 S. Abbe Rd.
Elyria
10am-2pm**



*Special thanks to
Post 1079 for their
continued support in
bringing events like this
to our community.*

**This is a free community event
designed to connect you to valuable resources
that are available to Veterans of all ages,
their spouses and families
No reservation needed, free admission, free lunch**

**Veteran Owned Business
VA Clinic
VA Hospital-Wade Park
Assisted living Facilities
Genesis House
Walleye for Wounded Heros
Charlies Wishes
Honor Flight
Hearts of Patriots**

**Fauver Law Offices
Shupps PAWS
VOA with Gun Safety
PGA Golf America
Home Health Agencies
Healing Waters
Save a Warrior
LCCC for Veterans
And Many More!**



Free for the whole family!





Mahoning Chapter DAR and Mahoning Valley SAR

are hosting their sixth annual

Veterans Charity Golf Classic

Youngstown Country Club

May 18, 2026

Space is limited to 104 golfers, payment reserves your spot! Sign-in 9 am
For questions, call Marty Campana at 330-503-2013 ★ MahoningDAR.com

Sponsorship Levels:

★ ★ **PATRIOT: \$3,000** Presenting Sponsor - Represented on all event materials, logo on our banner, name at the tee box, sign at hole #18 and a foursome of golf

★ **RED: \$2,000** Naming Sponsor - Represented on all event materials, logo on our banner, name at the tee box, sign at hole #18 and a foursome of golf

★ **WHITE: \$1,000** - Signage at oasis spot and on golf flyer, hole sponsor sign, foursome of golf

★ **BLUE: \$700** - Hole sponsor sign, foursome of golf

★ **HOLE SPONSOR: \$150**

\$150 Single Golfer

Includes: Chick-fil-A Breakfast Sandwich, Cart, Golf, Beverage Station, Skilled Prizes and Dinner Buffet

Don't Golf? Come at 2pm for music, basket drawings, silent auction and other festivities.

Dinner buffet at 3pm, all for just \$45!

Hole in One Contest sponsored by
#1 Cochran Chevrolet Buick GMC

Chick-fil-A donated by
Tiffany Square Plaza

Golf Balls sponsored by **ATHLETIX**

Company / Contact _____

Players (If unknown, please note "Guest")

Golfer 1. _____

Golfer 2. _____

Golfer 3. _____

Golfer 4. _____

I can't attend, but please accept my contribution of \$_____

I would like to donate this item for the auction:

Make checks payable to Mahoning Chapter, DAR

P.O. Box 14115, Poland, OH 44514

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 the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their generous \$2,500 donation to Veterans' Outreach. This meaningful gift will be used for Direct Aid, helping us provide immediate support to veterans and their families when they need it most. From essential supplies to critical assistance, contributions like this make a real difference in the lives of those who have served our country.

We are grateful for organizations like the Daughters of the American Revolution who continue to honor the spirit of service and patriotism by supporting our nation's veterans.

Thank you for standing with us and for helping us continue our mission.



Thank You to TCC



Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the TCC for \$2500. This support assists us to be able to serve and support our veterans.

Thank You, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley



Veterans Outreach sincerely thanks the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley for their recent \$5,000 grant. This funding helps us provide timely, essential assistance to veterans and their families during moments of urgent need. We are grateful for their continued commitment to strengthening our community and supporting those who have served.

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

[March](#)

[Veteran Jobs](#)



March Navy Reserve Birthday
March 3

Hug a GI Day
March 4

Seabee Birthday
March 5

K-9 Veterans Day
March 13

American Legion Birthday
March 15

Rosie The Riveter Day
March 21

Medal of Honor Day
March 25

National Vietnam War Veterans
Day March 29



Veteran Job Openings

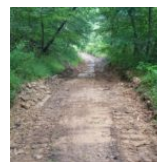
Recognizing the skills, discipline, leadership and problem-solving abilities that Veterans possess, employers can benefit greatly from hiring them. Veterans bring adaptability, a diverse perspective and a strong work ethic to the workplace, enriching company culture and fostering innovation.

Read More

<https://news.va.gov/145469/hiring-veterans-jobs-week-march-9-2026/>

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

Corporate
17 Colonial Drive

Alabama

807 Midway St.
Hartselle, AL 35640

Florida

5650 Park Blvd.
N Ste. 3

Kentucky

512 E. Main St.
Grayson, KY 41143

New York

P: (888) 283-8638
West VA

Youngstown, OH
44505
Phone: 888-2VETNET
Fax: 330-755-5930

P: (256) 778-3266
F: (256) 778-03267

Pinellas Park, FL
33781
P: (727) 317-
3712
F: (727) 317-
3713

P: (606) 475-0216
F: (606) 475-0217

P: (888) 283-8638

Veterans' Outreach | 17 Colonial Drive | Youngstown, OH 44505 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!