



**American Red Cross**  
Western New York Chapter

*On behalf of the  
American Red Cross,  
and our partners we  
thank you for your  
service and sacrifice!*

## GENESEE, ORLEANS, WYOMING COUNTY Military Family Resource Guide



Brought to you by the  
Western New York  
Chapter of  
The American Red Cross

**American Red Cross Volunteers of the Western  
New York Chapter with special recognition to  
the American Red Cross volunteers of  
Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming counties.**

*Please Note:*

*This is a living document and every effort was made to ensure  
that the information inside is accurate. For any changes, please  
contact the American Red Cross 716-878-2371 so we can up-  
date our records for future guides. Thank you for supporting your  
local American Red Cross*

*Printed 2024*



**WNY Heroes, Inc.** .....716-630-5020  
1001 East Delevan, Buffalo, NY 14215  
wnyheroes.org .....email: heroes@wnyheroes.org

A critical life sustaining vehicle for veterans and their families by providing immediate financial assistance to those in need. Now, more than ever, the need is constant and growing in alarming fashion with so many veterans returning home. WNY Heroes is here to assist in getting essential services through the VA. While these brave and heroic men & women face many challenges upon their return, their needs will further impact the need for program services within our organization.

- Adopt-A-Hero's Family (Holiday Assistance)
- Heroes' Bridge (Financial Assistance)
- Operation B.O.O.T.S. (Peer to Peer)
- Pawsitive For Heros (Service Dogs)
- William E. Kramp, Jr. Scholarship
- Little Heroes (Children's Sports/Activities)

*Pawsitive For Heroes:* The program will pay for service dog training with the help we get from our sponsors. The dogs and their owners go through various courses together, properly preparing the dogs to serve those who've served. A service dog can go anywhere his owner goes but you're not supposed to approach them, call them by name, or even bend down and pet them. The dog can't be touched by everybody and anybody. The dog has to listen directly to the handler. It can only be touched by the handler. So there's a huge difference between therapy dog and service dog. When they put their vests on, a service dog is working. It's all business. When the vest comes off, they go right back to being normal house dogs.

*Little Heroes:* Our program offers veterans' family members financial assistance, which can now be used to fund enrichment programs for children of Veterans or currently serving military personnel.

The American Association of the Red Cross with the help of Clara Barton was established in 1881. The Red Cross Association was later reorganized and in 1905 Congress granted it a new charter that established the basic organization of today's American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross grew during WW I (1914-1918). It met the welfare needs of rapidly expanding military forces. Red Cross field directors and other workers served troops in the United States and overseas. In 1917 Home Service was set up in many communities to provide a link between military personnel and their families.

That service still exists today and has been there as we have served our military and their families in every military conflict and war since that time. The Red Cross has traditionally been the liaison for families to meet the communication needs between the family and the service member of their family in times of need.

In 2015 we formed a working committee to step up what we offer to military families. There are countless numbers of agencies and organizations that exist to help military members and their families, but they are not always known to you. It has become our mission to communicate that information to every military family in Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming County. That is the inspiration for preparing this document; to link you to what is available depending on your needs.

We do this because we want to let you know how much we appreciate the sacrifice and giving that all military members and families have given to us and to our beloved country. This is a small token of our appreciation to you. We hope that you will find it useful and that you can connect to whatever service you may need. On behalf of the American Red Cross we thank you for your service!

Service to Armed Forces  
Local Advisory Committee

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**Wings for Widows .....** **612-466-2716**  
290 Peavey Road, Wayzata, MN 55391  
Visit [wingsforwidows.org](http://wingsforwidows.org) .....[info@wingsforwidows.org](mailto:info@wingsforwidows.org)

We provide personalized financial coaching and education to help widowed persons gain clarity, confidence, and peace of mind.

Wings for Widows is a heart-led organization. Our core values are Faith, Partnership, Respect, Quality, and Education. We find opportunities each day to apply these values in our service to clients and each other. We strive to:

- Show compassion and empathy.
- Display positivity
- Be responsive.
- Build community.
- Foster teamwork and collaboration
- Demonstrate courage and confidence.
- Engage in effective and clear communication.
- Be open to new ideas and innovation.

Help includes:

- Claiming benefits
- Credit & Identity Protection
- Identifying and Organizing Important Documents
- Budgeting and Managing Debt, Money Flow
- Banking and Investments
- Estate Settlement & Probate
- Insurance for you, your auto, your home
- Legal and tax

Visit our website to learn more.

**Warrior Strong Inc.**.....862-324-6322  
311 Adams Avenue. Scranton, PA 18503  
60 East Hanover Ave Unit B5, Morris Plains, NJ 07950  
warriorstronginc.org warriorstrongusa@gmail.com

Warrior Strong helps veterans, veteran family members, & first responders find community and camaraderie through health & wellness so they can overcome the sense of detachment, disconnection, and isolation they often experience in civilian life.

Warrior Strong serves veterans, veteran family members, active-duty military members, and first responders. We offer programs to those seeking a community, exercise, mental health relief, and adaptive fitness and sports. Warrior Strong has two physical locations in Scranton, PA, and Morris County, NJ. We also offer **virtual** programming for our members wherever they live or serve.

Programs include:

- Health and Fitness-Join for a free yoga, meditation, HIIT class and more every week.
- Rucks: Merging veterans, first responders, business owners and civilians together for a ruck/hike! Creating new bonds and social networks for all.
- Wellness Retreats: Overnight stay with Warrior Strong that includes mind body and spirit.
- Training Certifications: Personal Trainer Certification and Employment Program.
- Peer to Peer Connections: Connecting veterans through health and Wellness supports a smoother transition into civilian life.
- Mobile App: Download our mobile app and stay connected from anywhere you are.

Visit our website to learn more.



## HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN

**REDUCING FIRE  
DEATHS ONE  
HOME AT A TIME**

At no cost to you, we would like to share some simple steps you can take at home that will help protect your family against fire. In addition, the Red Cross will install **FREE** smoke alarms within your home. Visits generally last 20 minutes and can be scheduled at your convenience.

### **During the home visit, you will receive:**

- Installed smoke alarms (if needed)
- Guidance in the development of a Family Disaster Plan
- Valuable emergency preparedness tips and information

### **To schedule your visit, email**

**[smokealarms.wny@redcross.org](mailto:smokealarms.wny@redcross.org) or call 1-716-878-2353**

All demonstration and installation services will be provided by Red Cross-trained volunteers and/or licensed/insured professionals. To learn more about becoming a Red Cross volunteer, please visit **[www.redcross.org/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/volunteer)**.





## **HERO CARE NETWORK** **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

**1-877-272-7337**

### **CONTACT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS TO: RELAY A MESSAGE REQUEST THE PRESENCE OF A SERVICE MEMBER SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY**

Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Red Cross relays urgent messages containing accurate, factual, complete and verified descriptions of the emergency to service members stationed anywhere in the world, including on ships at sea, embassies and remote locations.

Even if the service member receives an email or phone call from home, Red Cross-verified information assists the member and his/her commanding officers with making a decision regarding emergency leave.

When calling the Red Cross be prepared to provide the following information on the service member:

- Full legal name
- Rank/rating
- Branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force)
- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Military unit address (deployed and home addresses)
- Information about the deployed unit & home base unit.

For Verification purposes, please provide (as it pertains to your emergency:

- Name of doctor, phone number, address
- Name of hospital, phone number, address
- Name of funeral home, phone number, address
- Name and phone of source that can verify your emergency.

**Warrior Salute Veteran Services** .....585-341-4600  
860 Hard Road, Webster, NY 14580 info@cdslifetransitions.com  
Visit [cdslifetransitions.org/warrior-salute](http://cdslifetransitions.org/warrior-salute)

Warrior Salute Veteran Services is built around the unique needs of each service member. We take pride in our ability to ensure that each service member receives the appropriate level of care, based on their individual situation.

#### **Transitional Housing**

Warrior Salute Veteran Services offers all-inclusive, supportive housing services for Veterans at our Nucor House. Our program is aimed at providing a strong, supportive community to help veterans reach their personal therapeutic, social, educational and community goals. Transitional housing is open at no cost to male veterans who demonstrate the desire and motivation to benefit from all services we offer.

#### **Case Management**

A case manager's top priority is each service member's well-being, and making sure that their individual needs are met. Our case managers promote the concepts of choice, weekly goals, individualized services, supports, and participant satisfaction. They meet with each service member bi-weekly to discuss progress and how to better reach their goals. Their main priority is to make sure participating service members feel comfortable and are on a path to success.

Visit our website to learn more.



**Vietnam Veterans of America** .....585-786-3890  
29 N. Main Street, Warsaw, NY 14569  
vva.org

Program/Services include: Agent Orange, Education, Homeless Veterans, Minority Affairs, PTSD and Substance Abuse, POW/MIA, Veterans Health Care, Veterans Incarcerated and in the Justice System, Veterans Against Drugs, Women Veterans.

*Veterans Incarcerated and in the Justice System*

This program promotes awareness about the special needs of veterans who are presently or formerly incarcerated. Through research about each state's Department of Corrections Regulations, the program explores ways to implement new programs for presently or formerly incarcerated veterans and to build cooperation at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Veterans Against Drugs*

The veterans against drugs program deploys volunteer veterans into their communities to visit students, detention centers and youth organizations to educate and help youth develop responsibility, good judgment and commitment to their families, schools, communities and each other.

**Wounded Warrior Project** .....877-team-wwp  
370 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1802, New York, NY 10001  
Visit [Woundedwarriorproject.org](http://Woundedwarriorproject.org)

Our purpose is to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members. We raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members. We help injured service members and assist each other.

Every warrior has unique challenges and goals. We provide a variety of veteran programs and services to help take the steps that are right for you. Thanks to the tremendous support of our donors, you never pay a penny to get the help you need to build the future you deserve.

Adaptive Sports; Financial Education; Benefit Services; Independence Program; Physical Health and Wellness; Soldier Ride; Warrior Care Network; Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) Warriors to Work® (WtoW); WWP Resource Center; and so much more.

**HERO CARE NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**1-877-272-7337**

The sacrifices of military life can cause unexpected financial hardships for military families and retirees. Through our partnerships with Military Aid Societies, the Red Cross connects service members, military retirees and their families around the clock for emergency financial assistance to help with emergency travel, rent, food, utilities and other expenses. Assistance is provided through a grant, loan, or combination.

**Eligibility:**

- Active duty military personnel and their eligible immediate family members.
- Reserve and National Guard activated under Title 10, U.S. Code, and their eligible immediate family members.
- A military retiree or spouse of retiree.
- Widows of deceased service members (active or retired).

**Expenses covered include:**

- Basic Needs including Rent/Mortgage, Food, Utility
- Insurance, Burial and Funeral Expenses
- Medical and Dental Expenses
- Vehicle Payments, Repairs, and Insurance

**To access the Military Aid Societies, contact the American Red Cross.**



## Military and Veteran Caregiver Network

**For 24/7 Hour support:** 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)  
**Text:** 838255  
milvetcaregivernetwork.org

### About us:

The Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN) offers peer-based support and services to connect those providing care to servicemembers and veterans living with wounds, illnesses and/or injuries. The Network is modeled on the nationally recognized, evidence-based programs of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), which has provided compassionate peer-based support to more than 60,000 loved ones of those who have died during their service in the Armed Forces.

The MVCN helps caregivers of all ages, at all stages of caregiving, providing access to three peer support programs:

- Online Peer Support Community
- Peer Mentor Support Program
- Peer Support Groups (Online & Community-Based)

**Online Peer Support Community:** offers a secure, confidential space in which caregiver peers can connect. The Online Community features discussion groups, chats and webinars to share experiences and practical information, educational and training opportunities, all monitored by trained Peer Moderators. All caregivers who assist a servicemember or veteran are welcome. No matter where you live, or what caregiving responsibilities or challenges you face, we offer a secure space in which to connect with other caregivers for information and support.

**Veterans Treatment Court** .....nycourts.gov  
1 West Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020 585-201-5765

The New York Veterans Treatment Courts offer alternatives to honorably discharged Veterans who are charged with non-violent felonies or misdemeanors. Their mission is to help Veterans recover and assimilate into society, connect with Veteran Organizations and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. They operate out of the Office of Public Defender, and they cooperate with Court Administration, the New York Attorney's Office, private attorneys, the local Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and numerous community partners.

Participants in the Veterans Treatment Court are referred to the program by their attorney, the prosecuting attorney, or other courts. Though participation in the program is voluntary, the Department of Veterans Affairs must approve participation eligibility. In cases such as domestic violence, additional approval for the veteran's participation in the program must come from the victim.

**Veterans Upward Bound, National Association**  
585-475-5495..... Visit Navub.org  
RIT, 162 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester NY 14623

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is a free U.S. Department of Education TRIO program designed to help eligible U.S. military veterans enter and succeed in the postsecondary school of their choosing. Currently, there are 49 VUB programs nationwide, including Puerto Rico, ready to assist veterans.

The services provided by VUB projects include:  
Academic Preparation; Assessment of academic skills, Academic Refresher Courses in Math, Laboratory Science, Composition, Reading, Literature, Foreign Language, and Computer Skills.

Other services include Assistance completing college admission forms, Personal academic advising and career counseling, Help with GI Bill applications, Assistance completing financial aid applications and finding scholarships, Career guidance and planning, Cultural field trips and campus visits, Tutoring and mentoring, Referrals to other community agencies serving veterans.



**Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY**..... 716-898-0110  
1255 Niagara St. Suite 230 Buffalo, NY 142132  
vocwny.org.....email: veteransfirst@vocwny.org

Our dedicated team helps former service members and their families find resources and services they need. One of our team members will work with you one-on-one to help identify your needs and help you achieve them. They will be with you every step of the way to make the process as easy as possible for you and your family.

Programs include: PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program, Women's Veterans Peer Support, Benefits Counseling Services, Education Services, Employment Services, Legal Services, Financial Counseling, Readjustment Counseling, Housing and Emergency Services

*PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program:* This program brings US Armed Forces Veterans, service members and their families together through Veteran-to-Veteran collaborative services, social activities, and community service, easing the transition from military to civilian life.

*Women's Veteran Peer Support:* Connect with other women Veterans in the community. We offer opportunities to encourage women Veteran-to-Veteran collaborative services, social activities, and community service, easing the transition from military to civilian life. Women Veterans can join us for social events like axe throwing, skydiving, manicures and pedicures, hibachi lunch outings, and a walking tour of Lily Dale to name a few.

Other programs include:  
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)  
SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program  
Cohesion Studio  
Shallow Subsidy Rental Assistance

ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS ARE COMPLETELY FREE

## CONTACT AT A GLANCE

<b>VETERANS CRISIS LINE</b> .....	<b>988 PRESS 1</b>
Emergency.....	9-1-1
211 WNY Helpline.....	2-1-1
Air Force ROTC .....	585-475-5197
American Red Cross WNY Chapter .....	716-886-7500
American Legion .....	800-433-3318
America's VetDogs.....	631-930-9000
Angel Wings for Veterans.....	888-675-1405
Angels of America's Fallen.....	719-377-7352
Boots for Troops .....	218-798-7567
Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight .....	716-473-8465
Buffalo Vet Center.....	716-862-7350
Catch a Lift.....	855-496-4838
Civil Air Patrol .....	585-409-1217
Clear Path for Veterans.....	315-687-3300
Division of Military and Naval Affairs .....	see website
Do it for the Love.....	see website
Dogs on Deployment.....	619-800-3631
Eagle Star Housing .....	585-667-5001
Ethereal Dreams Entertainment .....	716-983-4989
Finding Military Retirees and Veterans.....	see website
Gary Sinise Foundation.....	615-575-3500
Helmets to Hardhats .....	866-741-6210
Hero Care Network Emergency .....	877-272-7337
Heroes Home Advantage .....	803-261-9267
Heroes on the Water .....	469-780-7395
Heroes with Hearing Loss .....	see website
Higher Ground New York .....	716-984-7806
Home Fire Campaign .....	716-878-2353
Honor Bound Foundation .....	716-984-7806
Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America .....	212-982-9699
Joint Services Transcript.....	see website
Luke's Wings.....	512-971-9848
Mama Cindy Soldier Program .....	585-367-3780
Marine Corps League.....	703-207-9588
Military Hire .....	888-239-8825
Military and Veteran Caregiver Network .....	800-273-8255
Military One Source.....	800-342-9647

## CONTACT AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Military Sexual Assault .....	877-995-5247
National Domestic Violence Hotline .....	800-799-7233
National Park Passes.....	see website
National Personnel Records Center .....	314-801-0800
NYS Defenders Association/Vet Defense.....	585-219-4862
NYS Department of Labor.....	see website
NYS Park Passes .....	518-474-2324
NYS Veterans Homes (Batavia).....	585-345-2000
One Soldier at a Time .....	585-764-4550
Operation Family Caregiver .....	229-928-1234
Operation First Response .....	888-289-0280
Operation Homefront.....	210-659-7756
P3: Private Public Partnership.....	315-772-9489
Paralyzed Veterans of America .....	716-857-3353
Protect the Game—Battlefields to Ballfields .....	970-231-3672
Quilts of Valor .....	see website
Seabrook .....	856-455-7575
Semper Fi & American's Fund .....	760-725-3680
Soldier On.....	866-406-8449
Sunny Mike Foundation .....	585-431-6770
Team RWB .....	833-832-6792
Tunnel to Towers Foundation.....	718-987-1931
US Small Business Administration .....	518-326-6328
VA Medical Center .....	585-297-1000
Vehicles for Veterans .....	844-483-0838
Veterans Crisis Line.....	988
Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY.....	716-898-0110
Veterans of Foreign Wars .....	816-756-3390
Veterans Service Organizations.....	see page 60
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Veterans Upward Bound .....	585-475-5495
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Warrior Salute Veteran Services .....	585-341-4600
Warrior Strong, Inc. ....	862-324-6322
Wings for Widows .....	612-466-2716
WNY Heroes, Inc. ....	716-630-5020
Wounded Warrior Project.....	877-832-6997

## Veteran Service Agency's/Organizations

Genesee County Veteran Service Agency	585-815-7905
3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY 14020	
Co.genesee.ny.us/departments/veterans	
Orleans County Veteran Service Agency	585-589-3219
13996 Route 31 West, Albion, NY 14411	Orleanscountyny.gov
Wyoming County Veteran Service Agency	585-786-8860
36 Center St. Suite B2, Warsaw, NY 14569	Wyomingco.net
NYS Department of Veterans' Services	Veterans.ny.gov
222 Richmond Avenue, Batavia, NY 14020	585-297-1345

Services are FREE. The Veteran's Service Agency renders a wide variety of services to veterans and their families of all wars and conflicts as well as peacetime service. Service is also extended to active-duty servicemen/women and their families. Professional assistance and advice are given in the filing of applications for benefits under existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations. It is also a primary function of the office to familiarize veterans and their families of the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits available to them.

PFC Dwyer Program brings US Armed Forces Veterans, service members, and their families together through peer-to-peer collaborative services, social activities, and community service. The goal is to link Veterans together for socialization and friendship. This program utilized peer support from those who can relate to the struggles of transitioning into civilian life. The Dwyer Program is a non-clinical program and does not provide case management for individuals. It does link veterans with other service providers in our community if there is a specific need.

The Agency assists veterans and their families in applying for benefits such as compensation, pension, certification of military documents, replacement of military service papers, reemployment rights, civil service preference, education apprenticeship, on-the-job training, vocational training, home loan applications, tax exemption, death pension, headstones or markers, burial benefits, memorial flags, military funerals, and death gratuity pay.

The Agency can also assist you with NYS veteran benefits such as income tax exemptions, property tax exemptions, education benefits, civil service preference, EZ Pass Program, DMV benefits, CDL Skills test waiver, home ownership programs, blind annuity program, supplemental burial allowance, and more.

We Strongly recommend that you make use of the services provided.

## **U.S. Small Business Administration .....518-326-6328**

McNulty Veteran Business Center, 44 Dalliba Ave.,

Watervliet, NY 12189

Visit vbocregion2.com

aamoroso@mcnultycenter.org

Boots to Business (B2B) is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by SBA as part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP). B2B provides participants with an overview of business ownership and is open to transitioning service members (including National Guard and Reserve) and their spouses.

### **Veteran entrepreneurship training programs**

The Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) program is designed to provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling, and resource partner referrals to service members, veterans, National Guard & Reserve members, and military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business. VBOCs offer workshops, training, counseling, and mentorship opportunities in your area. VBOCs can also help you navigate SBA's extensive resource partner network and refer you to a community partner, lender, or SBA program.

SBA programs feature customized curriculums, in-person classes, and online courses to give veterans the training to succeed. These programs teach the fundamentals of business ownership and provide access to SBA resources and small business experts.

Boots to Business: An entrepreneurial program offered on military installations around the world and a training track of the U.S. Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

Boots to Business Reboot extends the entrepreneurship training offered in TAP to veterans of all eras in their communities.

Boots to Business Revenue Readiness is available after completion of Boots to Business or Boots to Business Reboot and provides a six-week virtual program that prepares participants to take their business idea from concept to an executable business model.

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**Tunnel to Towers Foundation** .....718-987-1931  
2361 Hylan Blvd., New York, NY 10306  
Visit [t2t.org](http://t2t.org) ..... [info@t2t.org](mailto:info@t2t.org)

Since 9/11, we have been helping America's heroes by providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and by building specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. We are also committed to eradicating veteran homelessness and helping America to Never Forget September 11, 2001.

### *Smart Homes Program*

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation builds mortgage-free smart homes for our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Each home is designed to address the unique needs of each individual. Smart homes host a myriad of features such as automated doors and lighting, wider halls and doorways, special showers to accommodate wheelchairs, automatic door openers, cabinets, counters, and stove tops that can be raised and lowered, back-up generators, and central heating and air conditioning systems that can be controlled by tablets. These homes help our most severely injured veterans and first responders to reclaim their day-to-day independence.

### *Gold Star Family Home Program*

The Foundation will provide a mortgage-free home to surviving spouses with young children.

### *Veteran Homelessness*

Veterans in this program will receive the support they need to help them address any obstacles to living a more independent life. In addition to delivering a mortgage-free home, the Foundation will also provide comprehensive care by connecting Veterans with appropriate local services (such as: mental health counseling, skills training, and addiction support).

**Team RWB** ..... 833-832-6792  
 Teamrwb.org..... email: info@teamrwb.org

In the military, service members push the limits of their well-being to support the mission. That selfless service posture has always been necessary because service members of every era knew they may be called to war. As they move into civilian life, many veterans carry that mission-first mindset with them, neglecting their health in the process.

We believe that veterans are America's most resilient citizens — and it's time for more veterans to prioritize their well-being first.

Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB) exists to guide them through that journey with real-life and virtual opportunities focused on building a healthier lifestyle because a strong focus on mental and physical health is critical to ensuring veterans' best days are ahead.

Our mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity.

Team RWB members share more than just values. We share an ethos – a set of guiding beliefs and ideals that characterize our community. An ethos persuades or inspires people to action and that is what our organization is all about. While ethos can be sometimes hard to define, you certainly know it when you see it. Ethos is demonstrated, not stated. Lacrosse, running, rucking, yoga, cycling, triathlons, functional fitness are a few of the programs they offer.

Visit our website to learn more.

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**Sunny Mike Foundation** ..... 585-431-6770

Visit [Sunnymike.org](http://Sunnymike.org)

email: [hello@sunnymike.org](mailto:hello@sunnymike.org)

We require you to complete our online application. You need to provide a copy of your DD214 that shows your separation status.

The type of assistance offered:

Financial-the veteran applies for funds to cover something, e.g. insurance, rent, or items, e.g. a crib, a bed, an appliance, the veteran wants to take a class in finance. We can provide (one-time) \$600 towards their need. Let's say it is rent. We need the contact information for the landlord. We contact them, verify the veteran is living or moving there, verify their process for payments and then mail them the check. If the need is goods, we have accounts set up at various businesses. We ask the veteran to go online, put items in their cart and send us the pics of the items they want, not going over \$600. They do that and we have the items delivered to their homes as soon as the merchant can get it there. We respond to the veteran within 24 hours of the application. To date, their needs are the most basic: a roof over their heads, a bed on which to sleep.

Community-we advertise that we can take veterans to a Rochester Red Wings game over the course of the summer (4 dates this year). The veteran emails us. They get a ticket, parking pass & \$20 diamond dollars to be used only at the concession there. If they have family members in their home who want to attend with the veteran, we give them the number of needed tickets. They can ride with the veteran so no parking or meals on us.

Pay-It-Forward-We ask the veterans who we help to help us do this with something that lights them up. What do you like to do? Fish? So you'd be willing to go fishing with another veteran? Great! We connect them. This gets repeated with each new veteran. Some veterans want to help us in return.

Visit our website to learn more.

**Soldier On**.....866-406-8449  
 290 Merrill Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
 wesoldieron.org..... email: info@wesoldieron.org

Soldier On provides three housing locations: a 165-bed shelter leased from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Leeds, MA; a 71-bed transitional living facility in Pittsfield, MA, and the first of its kind, award winning 39-unit housing cooperative Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans Community in Pittsfield. The treatment program is focused on building social skills, creating an enhanced sense of togetherness, and providing motivation for residents to spend their free time serving others instead of themselves. A wide variety of treatment groups range from Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous to computer technology and current events. Soldier On employs a full-time psychologist who focuses on the chronically mentally ill and veterans with dual diagnosis. Furthermore, each veteran is assigned a case manager to assist in attaining necessary services and developing an individualized service plan that addresses the veterans' needs and goals. The Soldier On employment program includes financial awareness classes, specialized services for incarcerated veterans, financial assistance for training and education, resume building, interview preparation and job fairs. We provide our veterans with transportation to and from appointments and services that are not offered where they live.

Soldier on also provides the following programs:

- Incarcerated Veterans Program
- Veteran Justice Partnership
- Employment
- Case Management
- Programing
- Military Financial Advisement and Counseling:
- And more

Visit our website to learn more.

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**Semper Fi & American's Fund** .....760-725-3680  
 715 Broadway Street, Quantico, VA 22134  
 thefund.org..... email: info@thefund.org

We operate our programs and services through a “needs-based” approach. Staff and volunteers work one-on-one with our service members, veterans, and military families—providing ongoing support for as long as legitimate needs require.

*Service Member and Family Support Programs:* Bedside Financial Support, Housing Assistance, Transportation Assistance, Specialized & Adaptive Equipment, Visiting Nurse Program, Caregiver Support & Retreats, Skip's Kids Program, LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund for Vietnam Veterans, Disaster Relief, Afghan Interpreters Welcome Fund

*Transition Programs:* Veteran to Veteran Support, Apprenticeship, Education and Career Assistance, Veteran & Unit Reunions

*Integrative Wellness Programs:* NeuroFitness, Arts & Music, Tim and Sandy Day Canine Companies, Jinx , McCain Horsemanship, Post Traumatic Growth Video Resources

*Post-Traumatic Stress Support Program:* Peter Murphy's Sports

**NYS Park Passes** .....518-474-2324  
 parks.ny.gov (see website for locations)

NYS parks offer opportunities to explore your natural environment, escape from the grind of the everyday and experience exciting new adventures. Beaches, boat launches, hiking trails, campsites, and golf courses all await you!

*Empire Pass:* Members of the NYS National Guard/Reserves who are currently serving on active duty are eligible for one free Empire Pass for use by their immediate family during deployment and/or for his or her own use when returning home.

*Lifetime Liberty Pass* permits NYS veterans with a 40% or greater service-connected disability discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities.

## Seabrook.....856-455-7575

133 Polk Lane, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Visit seabrook.org

email info@seabrook.org

We are honored to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs Community Care Network and PsychArmor as a Veteran-Ready program, providing detox, residential, and outpatient treatment services to our nation's military community. In many cases, individuals in this population do not receive an appropriate level of treatment from people who understand the full impact of military service. Our team at Seabrook does.

We provide a wide array of services that include:

Withdrawal Management  
Residential Treatment  
Outpatient Services  
Specialty Programs  
Holistic Treatment

Seabrook's clinical approach blends eastern and Western Medicine. This includes acupuncture, massage, yoga Taichi, nutrition, herbal medicine, and qigong, a system of coordinated body postures accompanying breathing and meditation designed to manifest energy in the body.

Visit our website to learn more.



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## 211 WNY Helpline

2-1-1 or

888-696-9211

Visit [211.org/services/veterans](http://211.org/services/veterans)

2-1-1 WNY is your free and confidential link to health and human services. Every day, across Western New York, people just like you are looking for help. 211 WNY is here 24/7. Lists most agencies that assist veterans within a specific county and a specific need.

## American Legion National Headquarters .800-433-3318

700 N. Pennsylvania St. Indianapolis, IN 46206

Visit [legion.org](http://legion.org) (See Website for a Post Locator)

Most prospective members do not realize all The American Legion does for people of all ages at the local, state and national levels. The Legion conducts, promotes and supports hundreds of career fairs for veterans and transitioning servicemembers, bringing employers face to face with job hunters.

- Operation Comfort Warriors raises funds to provide comfort items for U.S. troops recovering in military hospitals and transition units worldwide.
- Lobbies Congress for better quality of life for military personnel.
- American Legion Baseball; nearly 100,000 young men get to experience teamwork and competition each year.
- Provides more than \$138,000 in scholarships through The National American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.
- Legion Riders have raised more than \$2 million for the Legacy Scholarship, helping ensure the children of servicemembers killed on or after Sept. 11, 2001, have a chance at a college education.
- Department service officers help thousands of veterans receive VA benefits they earned through service to their country.
- A National Emergency Fund grant may be considered when the applicant has been displaced from his primary residence due to a declared natural disaster.
- Boys State is for high school students to learn about leadership and the rights and responsibilities of franchised citizens.

## Quilts of Valor.....qovf.org

Combat Quilters, Arcade, NY 14009

Email [combatquilters2023@gmail.com](mailto:combatquilters2023@gmail.com)

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq. According to Catherine: The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change.

The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing.

Visit our website to learn more.



### **P3: Private Public Partnership (Army Reserve)**

2490 Colyer Avenue, RM 156, Fort Drum, NY 13603

Visit [usar.army.mil/P3](http://usar.army.mil/P3)

315-772-9489

Private Public Partnership (P3) is a bold and innovative program that views Soldiers as assets with quantifiable value.

P3O ensures Army Reserve Soldiers are succeeding in their civilian careers which directly benefits the Army and the Nation by bringing substantial value and depth to the force. More than 87% of the force integrates military service with civilian careers, providing the Army with professional skills, education and expertise acquired in the private sector. Through collaboration with organizations offering job opportunities, and a nationwide network of corporate, profit/non-profit, and academic partners, the Army Reserve's Private Public Partnership Office is increasing its efforts to connect Soldiers with internship, employment, and education opportunities. P3O is leveraging technology, management tools, social networking platforms and hiring events - in collaboration with military and veteran service organizations such as Vet Jobs, Recruit Military, and others - to connect Soldiers and Families with employment opportunities.

It has transformed how both the Army Reserve and corporate America attract, develop, and retain talent. P3 focuses on fostering long-term partnerships with companies, corporations, foundations, academia, and non-governmental organizations to increase leader and unit readiness as well as enhances Individual Soldier physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, financial and employment readiness.

Mutually advantageous, P3 provides specialized opportunities in business and interagency environments for Army Reserve Soldiers to make immediate and meaningful contributions to both a robust national economy and the defense of the nation. To help identify the best opportunity for each Soldier, P3 has developed a nationwide network of partners that provide readiness support.

Visit our website to learn more.

### **America's VetDogs .....631-930-9000**

371 E. Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787

Visit [vetdogs.org](http://vetdogs.org)

Created to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with disabilities, allowing them to once again live with pride and self-reliance. America's VetDogs specializes in placing highly-skilled service and guide dogs to individuals with physical injuries, PTSD, hearing and vision loss, and seizures. Not only does a service dog provide support with daily activities, it provides the motivation to tackle every day challenges.

### **Angel Wings for Veterans .....888-675-1405**

4620 Haygood Road, Suite 1, Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Visit [angelwingsforveterans.org](http://angelwingsforveterans.org)    [info@mercymedical.org](mailto:info@mercymedical.org)

Angel Wings for Veterans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit national organization based in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Their mission: Ensure that no veteran in need is denied clinical care because of a lack of transportation.

Angel Wings for Veterans provides wounded, ill and injured veterans, and active-duty service members along with their families free travel to clinical care on the ground and in the air with gas cards, bus and train tickets, general aviation flights, and commercial airline tickets. They provide transportation to clinical care and a variety of therapies:

Medical treatment, PTS/TBI treatment, Rehabilitation, Service dog acquisition, Counseling, Adaptive sports events

Through partnerships with major airlines, they provide airline tickets to treatment destinations. Flights in small planes owned and operated by volunteer pilots are also available. For shorter distances, ground transportation via gas cards and commercial bus and rail tickets may be the appropriate means of transit.

**Angels of America's Fallen** .....719-377-7352  
10010 Devonwood Ct., Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
Visit [aoafallen.org](http://aoafallen.org) ..... email: [hello@aoafallen.org](mailto:hello@aoafallen.org)

Honoring our Fallen by supporting the dreams of their children: Our mission is to encourage and fund healthy positive activities for the children of fallen firefighters, military, and law enforcement. Between grief counseling and scholarships others provide, Angels stands beside the children all year, every year until adulthood. With your help, we're fueling these kids' dreams beyond the ultimate loss.

We support them through a long-term commitment to see them engaged all year, every year, all the way through 18 years old without having to reapply. We pay for the activities, but our support is much more than just writing checks; we follow up to encourage the children and share in celebrating their successes throughout each year. This long-term engagement is crucial for creating true lasting positive impact, and helps them develop their own personal identity, increase self-confidence, and write their own story of success rather than growing up in the shadow of a hero.

**Division of Military and Naval Affairs** .....[dmna.ny.gov](http://dmna.ny.gov)

The NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) is the state's executive agency responsible to the governor for managing New York's Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 personnel. The New York Army National Guard, with a strength of about 10,700 Soldiers, and the New York Air National Guard, with a strength of about 6,000 Airmen, are federal reserve forces which also respond to the governor when not mobilized. The New York Naval Militia, with a strength of about 2,700 personnel, and the New York Guard, with 400 personnel, are State's uniformed militia forces who support disaster response missions.

Programs include: Military Member Services Benefits, Family Services Community, NYS Defense Forces Employment

**Paralyzed Veterans of America** .....716-857-3353  
130 S. Elmwood Ave. Suite 621, Buffalo, NY 14202  
[Pva.org](http://Pva.org) ..... email: [rachaels@pva.org](mailto:rachaels@pva.org)

Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members – veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for:

- Quality health care for our members
- Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction
- Benefits available as a result of our members' military service
- Civil rights and opportunities that maximize the independence of our members.

To enable Paralyzed Veterans to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for Paralyzed Veterans of America to achieve its mission.

**Vehicles for Veterans** .....844-483-0838  
50 Foundation Plaza #1400 Buffalo, NY 14202  
[vehiclesforveterans.org](http://vehiclesforveterans.org)

Vehicles for Veterans is Car Donation Foundation's tax-exempt vehicle donation program that benefits disabled veterans. Our car donation program accepts cars, boats (with trailer), RVs, trucks, SUVs, and motorcycles, whether they are running or not. At no cost to you, we will arrange to have your vehicle towed away at a scheduled time that is best for you and your preliminary tax receipt will be mailed to you within 15 days. Thousands of veterans across the country rely on funding from the programs which Vehicles For Veterans benefits. Give back to those who gave everything to the country today! One strong community of support can help disabled and other veterans programs to assist even more unreached veterans.

**Operation Homefront** .....210-659-7756  
Critical Financial Assistance 877-264-3968  
operationhomefront.org

Our organization provides relief, resiliency, and recurring family support programs and services throughout the year to help military families overcome short-term difficulties so they don't become long-term hardships.

*Housing:* Transitional Housing (apartments), Permanent Homes, Transitional Homes, Transitional Housing (Villages)

*Family Events:* Back to School Brigade, Holiday Meals for Military, Star Spangled Babies, Holiday Toy Drive, Homefront Celebrations, Military Child of the Year

*Operation Homefront's Star-Spangled Babies* baby shower program is a family support service helping service members and their growing families to welcome the newest patriot to their families. Welcoming a new baby to the family is exciting, but it can be tough if finances are tight and your service member is deployed. This program provides: Baby supplies, new parent information, refreshments, and a bag of goodies for baby. In most locations, the families who participate have deployed service members, wounded service members, and other junior and mid-grade service members and their families.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)** .....816-756-3390  
vfw.org (see website for locations)

The VFW supports vital programs. They:

*Educate* separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Service Officer.

*Provide training* to VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

*Help* cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

*Deliver* morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

**Air Force ROTC** .....585-475-5197  
Genesee Community College @  
Rochester Institute of Technology-Det 538,  
One College Road, Batavia, NY 14020  
Visit [afrotc@rit.edu](mailto:afrotc@rit.edu)

#### Leadership Opportunities

In Air Force ROTC you will not only learn the principles of leadership in the classroom, but you will put them into practice outside of the classroom through hands-on management experience and valuable leadership-building exercises.

#### Professional Development

To prepare for a career as an Air Force or Space Force officer, cadets take courses that focus on the importance of effective leadership, application of leadership concepts and the role of a military leader in today's society.

#### Salary and Benefits

When you enter the Air Force or Space Force after AFROTC, you'll be able to take advantage of ongoing educational opportunities and advanced career and leadership training. You will also receive excellent pay and benefits, including healthcare, a housing allowance and travel opportunities.

**Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight** ..... 716-473-8465  
PO Box 426, Clarence, NY 14031  
Visit [buffaloniagarahonorflight.org](http://buffaloniagarahonorflight.org)  
[info@buffaloniagarahonorflight.org](mailto:info@buffaloniagarahonorflight.org)

Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight (BNHF), a hub of the National Honor Flight Network, recognizes United States Veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them to Washington, DC to see their memorials at no cost to the Veteran. Priority is given to WWII Veterans, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans, and terminally ill Veterans from all wars are eligible. Veterans are taken on a first come first served basis. Guardians fly with each veteran on every flight providing assistance and helping them have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience.

## **Protect the Game (PTG).....970-231-3672**

Visit [protectthegame.org](http://protectthegame.org) ..... email: [info@protectthegame.org](mailto:info@protectthegame.org)

### **Our Mission and Purpose**

We are providing opportunities for U.S. Military Veterans to train and then paid to work in youth sports AND we are building the numbers of qualified youth sports officials in America. Our military veterans protected our U.S. soil. We now protect them through training and employment in the sports industry. They now Protect The Game.

PTG is a non-profit committed to certifying military veterans and their families to become sports officials. More than 15 unique training opportunities spanning six sports (Baseball, Basketball, Football, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling) are offered.

For each training, you will go through a multi-day teaching with experienced officials and trainers. PTG will provide a starter kit of officiating equipment/uniform and will connect certified officials with assignors for immediate earning opportunities.

Veterans who execute the training and certification process through PTG are eligible for funding assistance from Battlefields2Ballfields.

## **Battlefields to Ballfields**

Visit [Battlefields2ballfields.org](http://Battlefields2ballfields.org)

B2B provides scholarships to veterans with an opportunity to get integrated back into their community through officiating. Those who have been involved in officiating already have felt the joy of stepping out onto the field or a court. With it, comes a great sense of value that leaves one with a feeling of accomplishment.

Serving in the military, and in officiating, there's the common bond of being a member of a team and creating order out of chaos. Battlefields to Ballfields is providing veterans with an opportunity to hone their newfound officiating skills and participate in something that will give them a new sense of self-worth along with the ability to make some extra income.

## **One Soldier at a Time.....585-764-4550**

24 Smith Road, Webster, NY 14580

Visit [Onesoldieratatime.net](http://Onesoldieratatime.net)    [onesoldieratatimeusa@gmail.com](mailto:onesoldieratatimeusa@gmail.com)

One soldier at a time stands with veterans struggling with PTSD and supports many local PTSD homes. We provide hygiene items, pots and pans, beds and bedding, furniture and coffee to help them assimilate back into civilian life.

One soldier at a time is a project that supports our Hidden Heroes. They are the men and women we don't hear much about. While their soldiers are off protecting our country, they are holding down the fort at home, trying to be both mom and dad.

We honor mothers and wives of active military on Mother's Day, Valentine's Day and Christmas by delivering beautiful gift baskets to remind them they are not alone and to encourage them as they navigate their new "normal" as a Hidden Hero while their loved ones serve overseas.

We help local veterans in many local PTSD homes by providing bedding, clothes, pots and pans, hygiene packages, furniture and coffee.

We ship sun care and goodie packages every summer to current military serving our country overseas.

## **Veterans Crisis Line .....988**

**Call 988** if you need to speak to a trained crisis counselor who can help with mental health-related distress.

You can also text 988 or chat online with the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. You can also call if you are concerned about someone else.

**Go to the nearest Emergency Room** for immediate medical attention.

**Operation Family Caregiver** .....229-928-1234  
PO Box 547, Americus, GA 31709  
operationfamilycaregiver.org

Operation Family Caregiver (OFC) is a free and confidential program for adult family members or friends caring for a military service member or post-9/11 veteran with visible or invisible (post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain) injuries or adjustment concerns. One of our coaches meets 1:1 with the same caregiver in a place of the caregiver's choosing (including via Skype and/or phone when not near us or that's what a caregiver prefers). The program is evidence-based with statistically significant improvements of caregiver depression and health status, as well as reduction of children's anxiety. Our coach meets with the caregiver four times over 4 – 6 months to support positive solutions to problems the caregiver identifies. In between each meeting a phone call is made to the caregiver. The emphasis is on the FOCUS acronym, which expands to: Facts, Optimism, Creativity, Understanding, and Solve. OFC is not psychotherapy, though coaches may help clients identify concerns they can share with their therapists.

**Buffalo Vet Center**.....716-862-7350  
2372 Sweet Home Road, Suite 1, Amherst NY 14228

We focus on providing services to Veterans and service members who served in combat operations, areas of hostility, state-side deployments or endured military service-related trauma. We also serve their families to support the growth and goals of the Veteran or Service Member.

Vet Centers help you and your family build meaningful connections and develop tools for achieving success in both your military and civilian lives.

Our services include: Counseling, Referrals, Community Engagement.  
Our Core benefits are: Welcoming environment, Community of Support, Practical and Therapeutic services.  
Our Priorities: Safe and Confidential, Guided by professionals who get it, No cost. No strings attached.

**Boots for Troops** .....218-798-7567  
Visit boots4troops.org ..... email: info@boots4troops.com

The mission at Boots For Troops is to uplift and empower the over-all morale and mental well-being of deployed service members defending our freedom. Programs Include: Care Package Program, Honor our Heroes, Travel Assistance, Jimmy Rogers Military Spouse Scholarship.

Care Package Program: We send a form that asks a series of questions such as what does the service member need? What are their favorite snacks? What is their favorite sports team, and more. Lastly, each package comes with a new pair of personal boots selected by the package recipient. This program is designed to generate the biggest morale boost possible.

The Travel Assistance Program helps provide financial relief for E1-E5 so they will be able to travel home for the holidays to be with their loved ones or to get home in an emergency situation. Boots For Troops books the flights in full and does not need repayment. We believe in the importance of family and being able to be there in a time of need.

**NYS Veterans Homes** .....585-345-2000  
220 Richmond Ave, Batavia, NY 14020

New York State Veterans Homes are skilled nursing facilities owned and operated by the New York State Department of Health for veterans and their dependents.

We provide quality care to all eligible veterans and their eligible dependents in need of skilled nursing care and rehabilitative services. We also conduct geriatric research and provide education and training for health care professionals.



## **Catch A Lift; Fitness for Veterans .....855-496-4838**

Visit [catchaliftfund.org](http://catchaliftfund.org)

The Catch A Lift Fund enables post 9/11 combat injured veterans all over the U.S. to recover and rehabilitate both physically and mentally through physical fitness, motivation and support.

Catch A Lift provides Afghanistan (OEF) and Iraq (OIF) combat-injured veterans the tools necessary for regaining control over their recovery. Veteran Participants work with a certified veteran coach to build a custom eight-week, holistic wellness program based on CAL's four pillars of fitness, nutrition, emotional wellness, and community.

Their coach oversees the program design to ensure consistent accountability and mentorship while guiding the veteran through behavioral change, ensuring success. Upon completing the initial wellness program, graduates are eligible for financial grants for home gym equipment or membership to a fitness facility of their choice nationwide.

CAL includes adaptive athletes, those wanting to lose weight, those seeking community, and more. Program participants become part of the family with continued engagement fostered through CAL's year-round outreach. In addition, members receive access to a proprietary wellness website, a private, veteran-only social network, and educational certifications. The program's overall impact distinguishes CAL for its effect on so many lives and its transparency and leadership.

CAL has the tools to help Veterans recover holistically!

## **NYS Department of Labor....[dol.ny.gov/services-veterans](http://dol.ny.gov/services-veterans)**

Outreach: 448 N. Main St., Warsaw, NY 14569 585-786-3145

Employment: 587 E. Main St., Suite 100, Batavia, NY 14020 585-344-2042 x 4211

458 West Avenue Suite 3, Albion, NY 14411 585-589-5335

*Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program:* They provide individual career services exclusively to veterans and eligible persons who have significant barriers to employment. They also provide a full range of employment services, including comprehensive assessments, individual employment plans, job referrals, referrals to training and support services, and resume and interview preparation assistance.

*Local Veterans Employment Representatives:* They specialize in advocating on behalf of veterans and eligible persons with business, industry, and community organizations to promote employment and training opportunities. They also provide services for veterans and eligible persons, including job matching and job placement, conduct employer outreach, inform Federal contractors of the process to hire qualified veterans, and promote credentialing and licensing opportunities.

*Experience Counts:* Former Governor Cuomo's program grants veterans credit toward state licenses for military experience. Example, Commercial Driver's License (CDL) fees can be waived for military members with recent experience driving trucks and heavy equipment during their service. The program also recognizes certain military training as credit towards licensure for veterans to become armed and unarmed security guards.

### **Veterans Temporary Hiring Program**

The NYS Dept of Civil Service hosts the Veterans temporary Hiring Program Portal which provides a centralized location for qualifying Post 9/11 veterans to submit up to date employment and contact information to be considered by NYS agencies hiring for temporary positions. For more information about the program visit: [cs.ny.gov/vetportal](http://cs.ny.gov/vetportal).

### **NYS Job Bank**

The NYS Job Bank is the DOL's main source for job postings and job seeker resumes. It includes over 100,000 job listings that cover a wide array of industries. Veteran Job seekers can enter resumes and search for job opportunities that meet their career goals. Visit: [myjobs.ny.gov](http://myjobs.ny.gov)

**Operation First Response** .....888-289-0280  
20037 Dove Hill Road, Culpeper, VA 22701  
Visit [operationfirstresponse.org](http://operationfirstresponse.org)  
email: [info@operationfirstresponse.org](mailto:info@operationfirstresponse.org)

We are dedicated to serving our wounded Service Members, Disabled Veterans, First Responders and Gold Star families. Operation First Response is a direct service charity. As such, we give back over 95% of the funds we raise directly to America's Finest who need our assistance.

- Family Assistance Program
- Last Mission Project (Counseling and Therapy Treatment)
- OFR Backpacks: OFR sends backpacks to wounded service members located at combat support hospitals in theatre. These backpacks are filled with a set of clothing, hygiene products, a handmade blanket, and a phone card and sent to a POC to be given to our wounded upon arrival. These items enable our wounded to have some personal items considering many have their uniforms cut off on the battlefield and it may take weeks for personal items to be returned. OFR also provides Hygiene bags to Veteran Food Shelters and Veteran Homeless Shelters.
- Operation Final Salute
- Random Act of Kindness Initiative
- Project Specialized Training

**VA Medical Center**.....585-297-1000  
222 Richmond Avenue, Batavia, NY 14020 .....Visit [va.gov](http://va.gov)

Provides primary care, mental health care, specialty care, cancer care, cardiology, diabetes care, mental health care, palliative and hospice care, treatment for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and hepatitis, disease prevention and wellness programs, alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation, posttraumatic stress disorder care, domiciliary program, community living center (nursing home) care and more.

**Civil Air Patrol** .....[gocivilairpatrol.com](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)  
Civil Air Patrol Batavia Composite Squadron #253 585-409-1217  
350 Bank Street, Batavia, NY 14020  
Civil Air Patrol Condor Composite Squadron #354 585-447-1571  
6522 Route 20A, Perry-Warsaw Airport, Perry, NY 14530

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is America's premier public service organization for carrying out emergency services and disaster relief missions nationwide. As the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, CAP's vigilant citizen volunteers are there to search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster, and work to keep the homeland safe. Its 56,000 members selflessly devote their time, energy, and expertise toward the well-being of their communities, while also promoting aviation and related fields through aerospace education and helping shape future leaders through CAP's cadet program. "Volunteers serving America's communities, saving lives, and shaping futures."

Emergency Services: Always prepared, both in the air and on the ground, members of the CAP perform emergency services for state and local agencies as well as the federal government as the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and for states/local communities as a nonprofit organization. Ever vigilant, these true patriots make a difference in their communities, not only assisting in times of disaster but also searching for the lost and protecting the homeland.

Aerospace Education: CAP's awarding-winning aerospace education program promotes aerospace, aviation, and STEM-related careers with engaging, standards-based, hands-on curriculum and activities. It shapes the experiences and aspirations of youth both in and outside CAP's cadet program.

Cadet Programs: CAP's cadet program transforms youth into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders through a curriculum that focuses on leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. As cadets participate in these four elements, they advance through a series of achievements, earning honors and increased responsibilities along the way. Many of the nation's astronauts, pilots, engineers, and scientists first explored their careers through CAP.

**Clear Path for Veterans .....315-687-3300**

Main Campus: 1223 Salt Springs Road, Chittenango, NY 13037  
Satellite Location: 114 Clayton Avenue, Vestal, NY 13850  
Satellite Location: 126 N. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202  
Visit [clearpath4vets.org](http://clearpath4vets.org)

We're here to enhance lives, confront challenges head-on, and open doors for personal growth, healing, and connections-all tailored to fit each veteran's unique journey.

*Connect:* No longer part of a close-knit team, former service members can feel isolated in the civilian world. Here, veterans find a new community of support and belonging-dramatically improving their outlook on life.

*Restore:* The obstacles veterans face impact not only them but also their loved ones. Here, veterans and families can heal; reset and re-adjust to life after service.

*Grow:* It can be challenging for veterans to define their next steps in life. Here, they have a place to learn, develop new skills, adapt their military expertise to a successful civilian career, and discover a renewed sense of purpose.

*Canine Program:* we raise purpose-bred puppies to support veterans physically and mentally. Our program is accredited by Assistance Dogs International, certifying our adherence to the highest standard.

*Peer and Family:* Emphasizes connection, stability, and understanding in a judgment-free zone. Whether interacting one-to-one or in a group, veterans and family members learn that they are not alone.

*Career Services:* We offer mentorships, career counseling, and workshops to guide veterans toward their desired post military careers.

*Culinary Programs:* We know that food builds friendship and camaraderie. Veterans and families can earn cooking certifications, take classes, and partake in events centered around the kitchen.

*Enrichment:* Through workshops in art, nature, mindfulness, and more, veterans can engage in self-exploration, socialization, and healing.

*Wellness:* We offer massage therapy, touch therapy, yoga classes, and more to address the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional components of health.

**National Personnel Records Center .....314-801-0800**

[archives.gov/veterans](http://archives.gov/veterans)

Recent military service and medical records are not online. However, most veterans and their next of kin can obtain free copies of the following military service records any of the ways listed below.

DD214/Separation Documents  
Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)  
Replacement Medals  
Medical and Health Records

Request online at [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov)

By Mail: Use form SF180 for most complete information  
National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138  
By Fax: Use form SF180 for most complete information  
314-801-9195

Generally there is no charge for basic military personnel and medical record information provided to veterans, next-of-kin and authorized representatives from Federal (non-archival) records. If your request involves a service fee, you will be notified as soon as that determination is made.

For additional information please call the National Personnel Records Center Customer Service Line. You can also contact your local County Veterans Service Office for information.

**Military Hire.....888-239-8825x314**  
520 S. Main St, Suite 2511-27, Akron, OH 44311  
[militaryhire.com](http://militaryhire.com)

Online employment service for Veterans and Employers. Veterans can post resumes and search and apply for jobs. Employers can post jobs and search and hire veterans. Host job fairs, free transition guide, resume writing, etc.

**National Park Passes**.....nps.gov  
email: store.usgs.gov/militarypass

The free Military Pass is a way to thank current US military members and their dependents, Gold Star Families, and US military veterans for their support of our country and to encourage them to explore recreational opportunities on their public lands and waters.

A free lifetime Military Pass is available for Gold Star Families and US military veterans. A free annual Military Pass is available for current US military members and their dependents. The passes provide free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

America the Beautiful: the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is your ticket to more than 2,000 sites of incomparable wonder, from Mt. S. Helens and the Grand Canyon at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Red Rocks national Conservation Area. It covers entrance fees at National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges, as well as standard amenity fees (day Use) at lands managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

If you are visiting several areas, the Pass can also save you money. There is no limit on the number of sites you can see, and each Pass covers entrance or standard amenity fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle at per vehicle fee areas (or up to four adults at sites that charge per person.)

Visit our website to learn more.

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"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." Abraham Lincoln; Second Inaugural Address; March 4, 1865

**Do it for the Love**..... info@doitfortheLove.org  
360 Grand Avenue, #350, Oakland, CA 94610  
DoitfortheLove.org

The mission of Do It for the Love is to inspire hope and healing through the power of music by supporting clinical and community-based music therapy, evidence-based research, and providing live music experiences.

Live Music Inspires...

Joy: A wish-come-true helps children and adults with life-threatening illnesses and wounded veterans feel stronger, more energetic, more willing, and able to battle their medical conditions.

Hope: For many of our recipients, it marks a turning point in their fight against their illnesses. The wish experience works in concert with medicine to make them feel better, emotionally, and physically.

Memories: A live musical experience forever transforms the life of recipients, their families, and entire communities. Wishes create lasting celebratory memories in the face of severe illness or trauma.

**Helmets to Hardhats** .....866-741-6210  
815 16th Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006  
helmetstohardhats.org

Connects transitioning active-duty military service members, veterans, National Guard and Reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry.

We've partnered with 15 international construction trade unions – like the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) – that have made a commitment to help our military heroes successfully transition to civilian life and work. We help service members explore the construction trades, get them started with earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship training programs through these partner organizations, and help connect them with employers. We also educate service members on how they can use their G.I. Bill benefits to supplement their incomes while participating in a registered apprenticeship program.

**Dogs on Deployment** .....619-800-3631  
970 W. Valley Pkwy Box 667, Escondido, CA 92025  
Visit [dogsondeployment.org](http://dogsondeployment.org)

We believe in providing vital assistance to military pet owners while they serve our country with honor, courage, and commitment.

Military members nation-wide confront a multitude of problems during their careers, the last thing they need to worry about is their pet's care during their service commitments. Dogs On Deployment is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit which provides an online network for service members to search for volunteers who are willing to board their pets during their owner's service commitments. Dogs on Deployment promotes responsible, life-long pet ownership by military pet owners by advocating for military pet owner rights, providing educational resources, and granting financial assistance for military pet owners during times of emergency. Join Dogs on Deployment's mission in changing the lives of our military members and their pets.

**DoD Boarder Network:** We provide the only online, national network that connects eligible pet owners with volunteers willing to board their pets during their service commitments.

**Pet Care Financial Grants:** Our fundraising supports providing financial grants to our heroes for help with emergency and basic pet care, during times of personal financial crisis.

**Community Advocacy:** Volunteers work tirelessly to provide advocacy and support services to our heroes to promote lifelong responsible pet care through education and outreach.

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**Take your DD214 to the County Clerk's office and have it registered!** If you do not want to wait for the National Archives to send you a copy when you lose yours, *take your DD214 to the County Clerk's office and have it registered!* This is your most important document from the military. *Take your DD214 to the County Clerk's office and have it registered!*

**Military Sexual Assault** .....877-995-5247  
DoD Secure Hotline ..... Visit [safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org)

Under DoD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Policy, Service members and their adult military dependents have two reporting options - Restricted Reporting and Unrestricted Reporting. Under Unrestricted Reporting, both the command and law enforcement are notified. With Restricted (Confidential) Reporting, the adult sexual assault victim can access healthcare, advocacy services, and legal services without the notification to command or law enforcement.

Sexual assault is the most underreported crime in our society and in the Military. While the Department of Defense prefers that sexual assault incidents are reported to the command to activate both victims' services and law enforcement actions, it recognizes that some victims desire only healthcare and advocacy services and do not want command or law enforcement involvement. The Department believes its first priority is for victims to be treated with dignity and respect and to receive the medical treatment, mental health counseling, and the advocacy services that they deserve.

**Military One Source** .....800-342-9647  
An official Defense Department website  
Visit [militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil)

Military OneSource is your connection to information, answers and support when MilLife happens. We can help you overcome challenges, reach your goals and thrive.

As a member of our military family, you are eligible to use this Department of Defense-funded program anytime, anywhere. If we can't get you the answers you need, we'll connect you to someone who can.

Military OneSource consultants can provide a brief assessment and referral to mental health professionals across the country for six free counseling sessions.

**Marine Corps League** ..... 703-207-9588  
8 Veterans Drive, Holley, NY 14470 585-993-4833  
Visit [mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)

We support the Toys for Tots efforts working with the Marine Corps Reserve and Toys for Tots Foundation to raise millions of dollars for the youth of America, and to collect and distribute millions of toys all across the United States.

The Marine Corps League provides funeral honors support to over 10,000 funerals per year. This support allows the Marine Corps (Active and Reserve) to focus more of their resources on mission preparation.

The Marine Corps League supports the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Semper Fi Fund, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Mack's Marines, and the Young Marines.

One of our most critical missions is assisting transitioning Marines and their families in support of the Marine Corps' Marine for Life program.

**NYS Defenders Association/Veterans Defense Program**  
23 Jackson St., Suite 101, Batavia, NY 14020 585-219-4862  
email [ghorton@nysda.org](mailto:ghorton@nysda.org)

The Veterans Defense Program provides training and legal assistance to attorneys defending veterans and service members in the family and criminal court system.

The VDP attorneys provide innovative and case-specific legal assistance to defenders in criminal and family court cases. These services include mitigation, records retrieval, resources, mentoring, and advice regarding military culture and its impact on their veteran clients. The VDP staff assist in expediting the release of both US Department of Defense and US Department of Veterans Affairs records. The VDP also provides veterans with guidance and referrals to VA programs and other veterans' services.

**Eagle Star Housing** ..... Visit [eaglestarhousing.com](http://eaglestarhousing.com)  
Corporate Headquarters: Victor NY 14564

Pembroke House; Transitional Housing 585-667-5001  
2620 Main Road, Route 5, East Pembroke, NY 14056

Liberty Square Apartments; Permanent Program Housing  
554 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020 585-667-1284

Provides Veterans a safe place to live while they regain independence and self-sufficiency. Our Veterans are offered support services, food, and housing stability, as well as education in life skills. Eagle Star Housing is committed to ensuring all Veterans have a safe place to sleep at night, while maintaining a long-term goal of assisting each Veteran to find and secure permanent and stable housing.

Eagle Star Housing currently provides 60-90 days of transitional housing for up to 31 Veterans at its homes.

**Permanent Supportive Housing Programs** offer a unique opportunity for increased support prior to transitioning to independent housing. Veterans can remain in these programs permanently if they require long-term support services or temporarily if they no longer need support.

**Transitional Housing Programs** support Veterans on their journey to find permanent housing within three to six months. To ensure that Veterans are provided with a safe place to live while they search for permanent housing, staff work to address any barriers that may impact a successful journey, including physical and mental health issues and substance use disorders. Eagle Star Housing is proud of the successful completion rate in the Transitional Housing Program, and has helped a majority of residents who complete the program in searching for and obtaining permanent housing.

**Ethereal Dreams Entertainment**.....716-983-4989  
34 Lincoln Av., North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
yournewlife.me.....email: yournewlife123@gmail.com

Helping Veterans out of the Darkness Into The Light.

Our goal is to bridge the gap between veterans and their communities. We're leading the way for veterans and the communities they come home to. Transitioning can be difficult for veterans, but we're dedicated to simplifying the process as a veteran-owned business.

Imagine that your taking a stroll through the woods on a floating pathway called "Ethereal Dreams". Your equipped with the Holo Lens 2 (augment/mixed reality glasses). The glasses take you to a different dimension while keeping you within this realm. Along the path you have three separate locations that create an experience unlike any other you have had before. Picture placing yourself in a syfy. At your first location you see this beautiful garden style archway. With the glasses, suddenly you witness your first star gate ever. It leads you to the Geo Dome on the other side of the Archway. After you have crossed over to the other dimension and your inside this dome, for the first time you witness a living, breathing, talking Dragon and out of this world plant life. Captivated by your experience you are intrigued to continue on an adventure to the next set of domes.



**Mama Cindy Soldier Program** .....585-367-3780  
5002 Old Bald Hill Road, Hemlock, NY 14466  
Visit [mamacindy.freesevers.com](http://mamacindy.freesevers.com)  
[Italianess47@wmconnect.com](mailto:Italianess47@wmconnect.com)

"MESSAGE FROM MAMA CINDY"

I Will Continue To Send Care Packages To Our Troops Overseas  
"Until They All Come Home"

**Military Working Dog Teams:** I have created a New Program of sending "Care Packages" to our "Military Working Dog Teams" stationed in Afghanistan. I began working with MSgt Brandon Tillman with the USAF. He was the Kennel Master and distributed them to all of his teams encompassing the Army, Air Force and the Navy. I ship healthy meals, snacks, treats, grooming brushes and pull toys to support the morale of our Military Working Dog Teams.

**Bundles for Babies:** is a program that helps new mothers. She crochets baby blankets and creates receiving blankets and burp cloths to include in the Bundles For Babies. There are two mini beanie babies donated by Lakeville McDonald's included in each gift that is wrapped in clear plastic with multi-colored ribbon. With the donations that cannot be sent gift baskets are donated to local hospitals in her community. If you know of a soldier having a new addition to their family, send their mailing information and I will send them a bundle for their baby.

**Diddy Boxes:** My Father-in-Law was a Marine and shared stories of when he was deployed overseas. One of his many stories was the "Diddy Box". He would receive a box with: 4 cigarettes, 1 pack of gum, 2 razors, 1 candy bar, 1 sewing kit and 5 pieces of hard candy. I wanted to continue the "Program of the Diddy Box" in his memory. I fill small boxes with goodies, seal them shut and on the outside of the box write: To Any Soldier, Big Hugs, Mama Cindy. I put 7 "Diddy Boxes" and ship them to a soldier to hand out to his fellow soldiers. A letter is enclosed about the "Diddy Box".

**Luke's Wings** .....512-971-9848  
(emergency requests), 1054 31<sup>st</sup> St. Suite 540, Washington DC 20007  
Visit [Lukeswings.org](http://Lukeswings.org)

Luke's Wings provides complimentary airfare to wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, fallen officers, and their loved ones keeping these families connected during recovery and rehabilitation. These flights bring mental, physical, emotional, and financial support, empowering wounded service members to overcome challenges they face every step of the way. Families are completely on their own to travel back and forth between their everyday lives and their new reality.

**Wounded Warrior Transportation Assistance Program (W.W.T.A.P.)**  
Provides flights for the loved ones of Service Members who were combat injured (or training accident injuries) and who are receiving ongoing in-patient care at a military hospital.

**Major Illnesses Transportation Assistance Program (M.I.T.A.P.)**  
Provides flights for the loved ones of Service Members who acquired a major chronic illness (such as cancer) and receiving ongoing in-patient medical care. These flights not only provide access to medical treatments that take them far from their homes but also provide travel for their loved ones to be with them every step of the way.

**Veterans in Hospice Transportation Assistance Program (H.T.A.P.)**  
Provides flights for the loved ones of veterans in hospice or palliative care so that they can be bedside for their final moments. Veterans who fall within this program line have served our Nation in World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, The Gulf War and so on.

**Special Operations Transportation Assistance Program (S.O.T.A.P.)**  
Provides flights for the loved ones of Special Operators during recovery, rehabilitation, and certain times of duress. These elite groups include Navy SEALs, Army Green Berets and Rangers, and Marine MARSOC, among others.

**Fallen Officer's Transportation Assistance Program (F.O.T.A.P.)**  
Provides emergency travel coordination and complimentary airfare to the families and loved ones of law enforcement officers, immediately following a catastrophic injury or death while serving in the line of duty.

With the help of supporters, we have provided thousands of flights to keep families connected. Click below to read more inspirational stories from our warrior families.

## Finding Military Retirees and Veterans

The locator service is free to immediate family members and Federal and State government officials. Other family members, civilian friends, businesses, or any others must pay a non-refundable fee of \$3.50 in the form of a check or money order made payable to the U.S. Treasury.

**Army Retirees:** Army Reserve Personnel Center, ATTN: ARPC-VSE-VS, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63132

**Army Separates:** National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63132. Current addresses are not maintained for separates who are not serving under reserve obligation. In such cases you might want to try the American Legion or VFW.

**Navy Retirees or Separates:** Navy Worldwide Locator, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Pers-312 5720 Integrity Dr. Millington, Tennessee 38055. Voice: 901/874-3388 (Recording 24 hours per day, live assistance available - 7:00a.m. - 4:30p.m., central time). Limited service is available by writing to the address above. Letters will be forwarded, if possible, to the retiree. A locator notice can also be posted in the Navy retiree's newsletter Shift Colors or you may advertise for former shipmates in any of the many veterans' organization magazines.

**Air Force Personnel:** The Air Force Worldwide Locator can locate active duty personnel, as well as retirees, reservists, and guardsmen. Parents, spouses, and government officials may call 210/565-2478. Letters requesting locator service should be mailed to: HQ AFPC/MSMIDL, 550 C Street, West, Suite 50, Randolph AFB, Texas 78150-4752. Voice: 210/565-2660 (Live assistance - Monday - Friday 7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m., central time). The Air Force will not help in locating separates or Army Air Corps retirees. You may write to the National Personnel Records Center below or contact one of the various veterans' service organizations to help in locating these persons.

**Marine Corps Personnel:** The Marine Corps is not able to assist in locating former Marines. They suggest you place an ad in Leatherneck Magazine. There is a monthly feature called "Mail Call" that includes locator requests. There is no charge for the service and you may send your request to: Mail Call Editor, POB 1775, Quantico, Virginia 22134

**Coast Guard Personnel:** Send mail to: Commanding Officer (RAS), Coast Guard Personnel Support Center, 444 S.E. Quincy Street, Topeka, KS 66683-3591. (785) 339-3415, (785) 339-3770 FAX



**Gary Sinise Foundation**.....615-575-3500  
PO Box 40726, Nashville, TN 40726  
Visit Garysinisefoundation.org

Freedom and security are precious gifts that we, as Americans, should never take for granted. We must do all we can to extend our hand in times of need to those who willingly sacrifice each day to provide that freedom and security. While we can never do enough to show gratitude to our nation's defenders, we can always do a little more. – Gary Sinise

#### R.I.S.E.

Through our R.I.S.E. (Restoring Independence Supporting Empowerment) program, we build 100% mortgage-free specially adapted smart homes for our most severely wounded heroes. We also provide home modifications, mobility devices, and adapted vehicles to our injured, wounded, ill, and aging heroes.

#### Relief and Resiliency

Our relief and resiliency program aims to ensure our defenders and their families stay strong through hardships by offering complete support in times of need. These programmatic initiatives help our nation's heroes, and their families find the strength to persevere and heal.

#### Community Outreach and Education

Our Community Outreach & Education program bridges the gap between our defender and civilian communities. Through these programmatic initiatives, we honor America's heroes both past and present and inspire the next generation to do the same.

#### First Responders Outreach

Our First Responders Outreach program provides funding for essential equipment, PPE, emergency relief, and training to ensure our first responders can perform to the best of their abilities. We also help those severely wounded in the line of duty by building 100% mortgage-free specially adapted smart homes and providing home modifications, mobility devices, and adapted vehicles.

**Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America** .....212-982-9699  
85 Broad Street, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004  
iava.org..... email: info@iava.org

IAVA is the face of the post-9/11 veteran's movement, and we are more powerful when we speak as one voice.

IAVA is called upon by the media first because our programs and membership are authentic. Nowhere does IAVA move the needle further for veterans nationwide than its ability to engage the public and lead the national discussion.

Quick Reaction Force is IAVA's one-stop-shop solution. QRF provides free, confidential, 24/7 peer support, remote care management and connections to quality resources for all veterans and family members.

Programs include: mental health, education support, financial assistance, housing, employment, peer support, legal assistance, veteran advocacy, and more for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

**Joint Services Transcript (JST)** .....jst.doded.mil/jst  
(Previous AARTS, SMART and VRAP)

JST has replaced the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). JST is an academically accepted document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a service members military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations. JST receives its data from underlying service personnel systems. Air Force personnel should contact CCAF to receive transcripts (URL: [www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp](http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp)). It provides a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language. It is a counseling tool for academic/career counselors in advising service members and veterans. It is an aid in preparing resumes and explaining service work experience to civilian employers. Use JST.

**Honor Bound Foundation**.....800-521-0198  
POB 2465, Darien, CT 06820  
Visit [honorboundfoundation.org](http://honorboundfoundation.org)

Veterans and their families turn to Honor Bound for food, utilities, medical bills, security deposits, and other urgent needs. We help veterans get back on track and find stability in their civilian lives.

Through our established partnerships with caseworkers and social workers within the VA and other organizations, we can extend our reach to struggling veterans across the country.

Honor Bound is unlike other veteran organizations and charities. Other organizations provide services for veterans who encounter specific issues. But many veterans who need help do not meet these organizations' specific requirements. That's why we help veterans who, despite their dire circumstances, have been turned away from other organizations and have *nowhere else to go for help*.

**Flexible Aid:** we assist with a wide range of urgent expenses, from security deposits and medical bills to food, auto and home repairs, education, and more. For real stories of veterans, we've helped, listen to the heroes themselves.

**Fast Turnaround:** we know that for urgent expenses, timing is critical, so we work hard to provide assistance typically within 2 business days of a referral. For veterans who have had their power shut off or have some other extremely urgent expense, we can typically provide assistance within 1 business day.

**Simple Application Process:** we work with social workers and case workers who file referrals on behalf of veterans, so that veterans themselves are not required to fill out any paperwork to receive assistance.

**Nationwide Services:** we use our working relationships with social workers and VSO's from local and national organizations to assist veterans in all 50 states.

Visit our website to learn more.

**Heroes Home Advantage**.....803-261-9267  
510 Clinton Square, Rochester, NY 14604  
Visit [heroeshomeadvantage.com](http://heroeshomeadvantage.com)

Heroes Home Advantage is a network of Realtors, lenders, attorneys, home inspectors, title companies and more that wanted to do something to give back to those that protect, serve and care for our country and community: military, law enforcement, firefighters, health care, emergency personnel and teachers by offering a real estate discount program.

We are proud that many of our dedicated professionals are veterans, military mothers, military children, and military siblings. We are retired police officers, teachers, firefighters, health care professionals and emergency personnel.

With Heroes Home Advantage, you have made the best decision to hire the professional that not only wants to give you their own money, but they are the best in the business.  
Visit our website to learn more.



**Heroes on the Water** .....469-780-7395  
101 C North Greenville Avenue, Suite 55, Allen, TX 75002  
Genesee Valley Chapter contact  
geneseevalley.ny@heroesonthewater.org  
Visit Heroesonthewater.org

Founded in 2007, Heroes on the Water is a 501(c)3 non-profit that provides recreational wellness experiences. Our primary modality is kayak fishing, which has proven cognitive and emotional benefits. These programs incorporate structured activities in a pressure-free environment, creating opportunities for community building and personal healing. Our participants receive much-needed camaraderie and support.

A dedicated group organizes our events at no cost to participants or their families. There is no prior experience or equipment required. Recurring activities provide participants with consistent access to healing support and involvement in a community of people with shared experiences.

At Heroes on the Water, we prioritize the wellness of our veterans, first responders and their families. We understand the unique challenges of transitioning from active duty to civilian life, often characterized by feelings of isolation and emotional distress. Our kayak fishing programs aim to address these issues, creating a supportive environment where participants can engage with peers who understand their experiences.

Our initiatives are more than just fishing events; they are an opportunity for veterans and first responders to reconnect with themselves and the world around them. The peaceful rhythm of the kayak, the bond with nature, and the focus required in fishing bring a calming balance, reducing stress and promoting cognitive healing.

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:**  
..... **800-799-7233**

**Heroes with Hearing Loss** .....heroeswithhearingloss.org

We understand that hearing on the phone can be challenging to the point of frustration for anyone with hearing loss. This is why the Heroes With Hearing Loss program is an important resource for Veterans Service Officers and why our sponsor, Hamilton CapTel, provides veterans with a simple, no-cost solution that ensures clarity and confidence on every phone call.

Certified Veterans Service Officers or hearing healthcare professionals may certify any veteran with a qualified hearing loss to receive a no-cost Hamilton CapTel captioned telephone by completing the Certificate of Hearing Loss/Order Form online.

- Listen and read captions of what's said on every call – incoming and outgoing.
- Integrated answering machine captions your voice messages.
- Adjustable volume control ensures comfortable listening levels.

A nationwide service available to individuals with hearing loss at no cost. Visit our website to learn more.

**Higher Ground New York**.....716-984-7806  
120 Second Ave, Unit 206, Ketchum, Idaho 83340  
Visit highergroundusa.org ..... natasha@higherground.org

Our mission is to provide the most effective therapeutic recreation services to military families confronted with traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress (PTS), military sexual trauma (MST), and polytrauma, using evidence-based practices and the sustained continuum of care necessary for a successful reintegration into their families and communities.

Higher Ground New York hosts week-long camps for service members, veterans, and their supporters. We use therapeutic recreation and adaptive sports to help facilitate a change in perspective and give the participants the physical skills, confidence, and coping strategies necessary for a successful reintegration process. Visit our website to learn more.