

ON THE HOME FRONT

NEWSLETTER OF VETERANS OUTREACH OF PA

Happy Thanksgiving



Dear Friends,

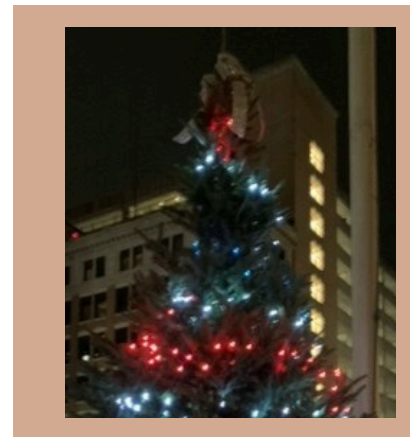
In this month of gratitude, we have been giving added thanks for our freedoms, and those who were willing to pay for those freedoms with their lives. As we care for those who may have lived for years without the bare necessities of life, we live in gratitude for our families, friends, food, warm homes and more. For the first time in a long time for most of our veterans, they will have a safe space to stay for the holidays, and people to gather with around a full table.

Another highlight of this month was our Nov. 22 tree-lighting at the Hilton in downtown Harrisburg. Debuting the holiday spirit to come, the brief ceremony was warm, well-attended, and wonderful despite the wintry weather. The highlight of the night was having one of our veterans flip the switch with Mrs. Claus to turn on the glittering lights..

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for making these memories and victories possible. Please continue to join us in keeping the spirit of Thanksgiving and the holidays alive in 2025. In the new year, we will carry on in strengthening our veterans in physical, financial, and emotional strength.

May Thanksgiving be a special feast of food, family and friends, which are the very treasures we endeavor to restore for our veterans all year. May the blessings you have given to others return to you in abundance!

Gratefully yours, Tom and the VOPA Team



OUR VETERANS SALUTE OUR DONORS

In the past quarter, fundraisers for our Veterans have continued with enthusiasm, and we thank these and others:

- the Grange in Dillsburg, with Tonya and Tina Traver
- Mountz Jewelers in Camp Hill
- Penn National Insurance
- NAACP of Greater Harrisburg
- Americhoice
- Drayer Physical Therapy
- PHFA CARES Team
- Cumberland Valley Corvette Club
- Builders Association of Metropolitan Harrisburg
- Dauphin County Council of Republican Women
- Lawnton American Legion Post 998 Legion Riders
- Hospice of Harrisburg
- Purse Bingo and Gun Bingo with Bunny Ylnger
- Trunk or Treat event by JPM Racing

Volunteers included Cordia, UPMC & Dr. Grater, DDS.



VETERANS GROVE IN THE NEWS



A few of our supporters filmed brief videos about why they support VOPA. They include Ronnie Beek of DJ's Smoke Shack, Bill Craig of WebFX, JoAnn Tresco of PA Dance Sport Ballroom, Brian McCarver of Stonebridge Financial Group and Paul Stull of Cavalry Realty.



We also appeared on WGAL for 8 Who Care, on Christine Ricci's People and Perspectives radio show, on TV 21's "Days of Caring" with Renewal by Andersen, a video by Penn National Insurance, and more. Thank you to our partners for helping us spread the word about our mission to protect those who have protected this nation.

DONATE TO \$15 for 15





Thank you to our “Home for the Holidays” Tree-Lighting Sponsors!

- Enders--EXCLUSIVE EVENT SPONSOR
- Members 1st Federal Credit Union
- UPMC
- Bob Means Plumbing
- Pyramid Construction
- Hilton Harrisburg
- Orth Entertainment
- Jack Harlacker
- Sweet Cordelia’s Cake and Bake Shoppe
- Cornerstone Coffeehouse
- Hoagy’s Tree Farm
- Kevin & Sandy Backauskas
- Army Heritage Foundation
- Weideman and Douty
- Deb and Jim Donahue



Our Holiday Wish List in Pennlive

We thank you in advance for

- \$10 or \$20 gift cards to Wawa, Sheetz and Giant for gas to transport Veterans to appointments
- Uber gift cards
- Men’s boxer briefs, Sizes L or XL
- (We also need new men’s boots)



Remember, we collect clothing, cleaning products, paper products, and food donations every Thursday from 10 am to 12 noon (excluding Thanksgiving)



Staff Member Salute



MEET MALLORY S.



Mallory S. was serving up delicious, nutritious meals at Northern High School and the West Shore Elks when a friend told her about VOPA.

She has been here ever since as Veterans Grove's first and favorite cook.

She said the Veterans are devoted fans of her tacos and barbecue, and if they have a special request, she aims to please –as long as she has the ingredients. She is launching Pizza Fridays and Mexican Tuesdays and is planning and preparing all three meals.

"I had no idea there were so many homeless veterans in this area, so I love that I can cook for them," she said.

Breakfast is often oatmeal or pancakes, eggs, bacon or sausage.

For all meals, Mallory picks from a list of food available at the food bank and plans meals from there,

She serves up more than food. She finds that many of the veterans open up to her.

"I love that I'm helping. I love cooking and I love helping people who need it."



Veterans Day Attracted Brick Sponsors to the Star Memorial

Our Veterans received many displays of support this Veterans Day. Americhoice delivered a meal from Flinchys' and collected many in-demand items. Dr. Stephen Grater provided free dental care.. On Veterans Day, we had no formal ceremony, but we hosted an open house so brick sponsors could see their engraved brick. Tears began to flow with the very first couple, as bricks became emotional reminders of their loved ones' honorable lives. Thanks to all who sponsored a brick for a special someone!



UPMC Donates Telemedicine Equipment

Veterans who reside at Veterans Grove can now see health care providers without the need to travel, thanks to the generous donation of telemedicine equipment from UPMC. The donation was made possible through the ongoing partnership between the two organizations, ensuring residents at Veterans Grove have easy access to quality clinical care.

“This community is designed to help unhoused veterans in transition obtain stability in their lives and support their journey by breaking down barriers to services they may need,” said Marc Migala, director, Veteran Care Services, UPMC in Central Pa. “Quality health care and supportive services are an essential piece of the equation, and we understand that individuals face many challenges when accessing care. With this equipment, the veterans have everything they need in one convenient, safe, and private location to access Life Changing telemedicine services, helping close critical clinical care gaps and offering our community the best opportunities possible to achieve whole wellness.”

"Before we can even begin to address the root causes of veteran homelessness, we must ensure that our veterans are healthy. Many of our veterans haven't seen a doctor in years," said Tom Zimmerman, co-founder and chairman, Board of Directors, Veterans Outreach of PA. "Having access to medical experts whenever needed, through the convenience of telemedicine, is a godsend, and we are truly grateful to UPMC for adding to their already generous contributions to Veterans Grove through the gift of this high-tech equipment. We appreciate having the power to serve veterans where they are, eliminating commute times, protecting their privacy and security, and expediting recovery times."

Representatives from UPMC Telemedicine delivered and set up all the needed telemedicine equipment, including a computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse, blood pressure cuff (arm), blood pressure cuff (wrist), digital scale, digital stethoscope, cameras, speakers, and additional clinical tools.

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More Generous Donors!



Among our Goals for 2025

- **Bring in new veterans as our first cohort moves on
- **Attend more events to spread the word
- **Increase outreach to all veterans
- **Collaborate more with other organizations
- **Continue to raise awareness by attending new events



Our Board

A special thanks to our board members, who devote countless hours, thought and energy to fulfilling the mission .

Tracey Alfano-Douty

Tim Deery

Deb Donahue

Don Enders, Jr

John Hickey

Ben Lipschutz, Treasurer

Marc Migala

Louis Motley

Conner Porterfield

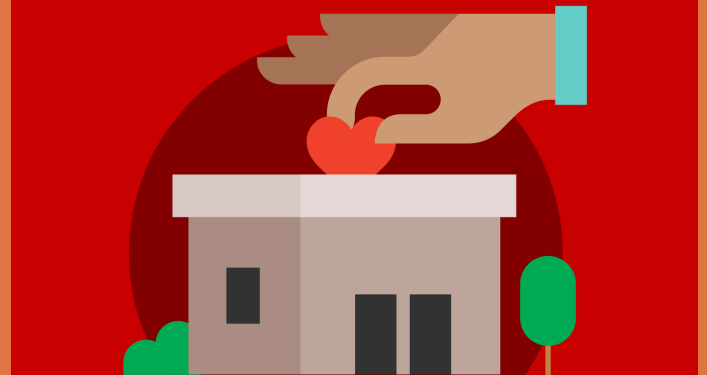
Mike Reardon

Bill Reed, Vice Chair

Lisa Zimmerman, Secretary

Tom Zimmerman, Chair

3 Find us & vote



YOU CAN SUPPORT VOPA WHEN YOU SHOP AT TARGET. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO VOTE FOR US! TALK TO US TO LEARN MORE AT INFO@VETERANSOUTREACHOFPA.ORG



HAPPY
THANKS
GIVING