



Serving Area Military & Veterans
8101 Manchester Ave. N.W.
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

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**SAM Center celebrates 10 years this
year! Celebrate with us!**

Serving Area Military

Spring 2025



Veterans' Resource Center serves veterans, their families and the community

Greetings from Canal Fulton!

If you have not had an opportunity to drop on by the Canal Fulton Veterans' Resource Center (VRC) at 8101 Manchester Road N.W. in Canal Fulton, we would love to welcome you in for a tour, to come and volunteer for the day or to participate in one of our fantastic veteran programs. Whether you are looking for answers to benefit questions, seeking financial assistance, needing military records, wanting to join a new class, looking to give back your time in volunteering or just needing a place to host a birthday celebration, graduation party or family reunion, we are thrilled to help you at the VRC.

The VRC is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. With the new year in full swing, we are excited to share the new programming we have implemented so far this year, and remind you of our existing programming that continues to be offered for people of all ages. As always, our classes are free to veterans, widows, active military and Gold Star families. In some cases, non-veterans may attend for a small fee.

Every week the VRC offers multiple opportunities to grow the mind, body and spirit. Breathe deeply and reset your mind and body at Iyengar yoga class with Lee Schroeder on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Pilates on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Wild Yoga Studio offers little bodies a chance to stretch and focus in a children's yoga class on the first and third Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.

Join us for weekly fellowship through "Coffee and Conversation" from 9 - 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday and an open art studio time every other Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Speaking of art, Lynda Tuttle's Art Studio offers our veterans the opportunity to "Connect through Art" on the third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. for families and at noon for veterans. In addition, Lynda Tuttle also offers several ongoing skill-based class sessions for veterans. including a watercolor class on Mondays at 6:15 p.m. for one-month rotations. These intensive classes build on each week's lessons and you can sign up for multiple months.

The Wednesday guitar classes are only for veterans and they run for 14-week sessions starting at 5 p.m. for beginners, 6 p.m. for intermediate students and 7 p.m. for advanced students. Our new "Freestyle Friday" free-form guitar jam session is on the first and third Friday of the month from noon - 2 p.m., and allows our guitar students, or any veterans who want to practice guitar together, a place to play with music and hang out.

Both watercolor and guitar classes will start again to new students in May and August. To register, please contact us at 330-956-6162, ext. 2. For any questions, or if you would like to ask about volunteering, reserving a room or teaching a class at the VRC, please reach out to us at 330-956-6162, ext. 2 and Jodie and Lucia will be thrilled to help you out.

We can not wait to meet you, show you around and help you find what you are looking for!

SAM: Celebrating 10 years of service

For many fans, the Super Bowl is a time to celebrate a great accomplishment. That is especially true for Serving Area Military and Veterans. Ten years ago, on Super Bowl Sunday, our organization was officially founded. From a community of believers sitting around a table one November day, we laid the plans to be the conduit of our community's love for our veterans and their widows(ers).

The concept was simple. Open our doors and support veterans. The pantry would serve as our outreach to connect with veterans in need. The support group would build relationships. Our first funds would come from the volunteers who cleaned, organized and set up our Massillon facility. It was a facility American Legion Post 221 provided on a zero-dollar lease. The same amount we have paid for 10 years.

The name was a simple choice, Serving Area Military and Veterans. It was what we intended to do. We would serve those who served. We shortened it to SAM for Uncle Sam and in homage to Sam Smith. Sam served with our founder. When our founder stood guard over his casket, he promised Sam that he would do more. He would work to ensure veterans would have hope.

At 10 years old, Serving Area Military and Veterans has grown to do more than just honor our veterans. We have been the conduit of the community's love. The first donors kept our lights on. More recent donors have helped us grow and expand to Canal Fulton. It was never easy, but God and love led us down the path our community paved.

In 2015, the commissary would provide food and hygiene to 158 veteran families.

Continued on page 3

Visit www.ServingAreaMilitary.org for more information

Honoring service, strengthening community

Scott Haws, board president, SAM Center

It is with profound gratitude and humility that I reflect on my years of board service since 2019, and currently as the board president of the Serving Area Military (SAM) Center. Leading our Board of Directors and working alongside our executive director and dedicated staff is an incredible honor. Together, we have grown and strengthened our organization, remaining steadfast in our mission: “To serve those who have served us.”

Our purpose and mission

At the SAM Center, our purpose is clear: “We exist to serve our military and veterans. We are the conduit of the community’s love for our veterans. Our purpose is to provide for the basic mental and physical needs of our veterans.” This mission aligns deeply with my personal calling: “To Honor God in all I do and to serve others. To pursue excellence. Loving, serving and giving.” Through faith and purpose, we have been blessed to make a lasting impact on the lives of so many veterans in need, and will continue to do so.

A legacy of service

Military service runs deep in my family. My grandfather was a WWII U.S. Army Airborne combat veteran, my father a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force and many of my family and friends have served our nation with honor and dedication. It is their legacy that fuels my passion for ensuring our veterans receive the care, resources, and respect they deserve.

Faith, partnerships and kingdom work

God has moved through our work in remarkable ways, opening doors to invaluable connections and partnerships that have empowered us to lift up our veterans. As Proverbs 3:27 states, “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.” Because of our community’s unwavering support, we have been able to provide essential services and resources to thousands of veterans and their families.

We give heartfelt thanks for the many foundations, corporations and individual donors who make our work possible. A special acknowledgment to the McS Foundation for their long-term endowment support, which ensures the sustainability of our mission. It is through these treasured partnerships that we are able to arise, shine, and serve the needs of our veteran community.

Our values

The SAM Center is built on core values that guide our every action:

- **Respect** – As our greatest demonstration of love, we shall respect our stakeholders for their service and sacrifice
- **Dependable** – We will be a reliable resource for our veterans and community
- **Compassionate** – We will serve with a compassionate heart, recognizing the unique challenges our veterans face

A decade of service: looking ahead

As we approach our 10-year anniversary, we reflect on the dedication and contributions of so many individuals who have shaped this organization. Special events will be planned to commemorate this milestone, celebrating the lives we have touched and the collective impact we have made.

Programs and impact

The SAM Center continues to make a measurable difference in the lives of veterans:

- **Annual resource fair** – Providing millions of dollars in service benefit connection impact, connecting veterans to vital resources
- **Thanksgiving and Christmas programs** – Hundreds of veterans and their families receive holiday meals and gifts each year
- **Veterans Resource Center (VRC)** – A public space for veterans to access support and build community

We are also grateful for the late Senator Kirk Schuring, whose unwavering support helped secure vital state capital budget funding to support our mission and reach.

Your voice matters

We value the input of our veteran community and partners. As we develop our next three-year strategic plan, we will be conducting annual surveys in early 2025. Your feedback is essential to ensuring we continue to meet the needs of those we serve.

Visit and get involved

We welcome veterans and community members to visit our facilities:

- Massillon Location: 413 Lincoln Way E., Massillon
- Veterans Resource Center: 8101 Manchester Ave. N.W., Canal Fulton

If you feel moved by the mission of the SAM Center and wish to support or get involved, we would love to connect with you! Reach out to us at support@servingareamilitary.com or call 330-956-6162. Don’t forget to follow us on social media:

- Facebook: Serving Area Military
- LinkedIn: SAM Center Ohio

In closing

It is a privilege and absolute honor to lead our board and work alongside so many dedicated volunteers who make the SAM Center’s mission possible. The impact we have made—and will continue to make—is bigger than any single individual. Together, we will continue to honor, serve and uplift those who have given so much for our freedom.

Respectfully submitted, yours in service,
Scott M. Haws, MBA, PMP, CSM
Board President – SAM Center



Managing life’s challenges can look different for everyone.
You don’t have to go through it alone.



Continued from page 1

SAM would provide lodging kits to 27 homeless veterans transitioning to housing. For Thanksgiving, we would serve 53 families followed by 112 children receiving Christmas presents. This was all coordinated by the volunteers who gave 1,981 hours to serve our veterans. Financially, we had 56 organizations and 132 donors show their love.

So what has happened in 10 years?

The need increased. We grew. Our community of believers grew. In 10 years, our community has blessed SAM with being able to provide more than \$5.5 million in direct assistance to veterans in need. Our volunteers have given more than 41,000 hours of service.

It means that the small idea formed around a table in 2014 and established on SuperBowl Sunday in 2015 has fed 27,776 veterans. With their families, the community has provided food and toiletries for 54,706. The lodging kit program has grown to help 891 homeless veterans as they transition to housing. Veterans are now able to cook, clean and sleep on new sheets when they transition into housing. They are provided the resources to live.

During Thanksgiving, our community has come together to provide 2,912 full Thanksgiving meals for our veteran families. This is everything from a whole turkey to a Gardner pie. It has helped thousands of veterans invite others for Thanksgiving and allowed them to bring a main course to a family event. On Thanksgiving, they can share the warmth of the community's love.

The once small Christmas program has grown to provide toys for more than 1,606 children. Our community has allowed the parents to shop for stocking stuffers, medium toys and large items that make Christmas morning magical. It has kept Santa's magic alive for so many children.

With all this, we say thank you. Thank you to the community that made this happen. It is not one person, but thousands of people showing their love to our veterans. For the veterans reading this article, this is the community's love for you. For the supporters, this is the difference your support has made for our veterans. In ten short years, you have made a tremendous difference. From putting food on the table to making Christmas magic, you have allowed us to show our veterans your love.

SAM Center will be celebrating its 10th anniversary throughout the year with various events and celebrations.

Watch our Facebook page and website for the schedule of events.
We look forward to you celebrating with us!



SAM

CENTER
Serving Area Military

Community Yoga

Mondays & Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Veteran's Resource Center
8101 Manchester Ave. N.W., Canal Fulton

Join Lee Schroender for Iyengar yoga
(Falls under Hatha yoga)

Benefits and regular practice helps:

- Improve physical and psychological health
- Alleviate postural/structural problems
- Release tension
- Increase focus and concentration
- Boost energy
- Connect with your body and breath

Mats will be provided to veterans, or bring your own
Always Free for veterans and their widows • \$10 for non-veterans



VETERANS' CHOICE PANTRY

CALL 330.956.6162



BY APPOINTMENT 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

413 LINCOLN WAY EAST, MASSILLON

A glimpse of beauty through art

Lynda Tuttle, Lynda Tuttle’s Art Center

In life, beauty exists all around us. It touches the depths of our souls, calms and ignites our senses, energizes our bodies, inspires our minds, and propels us forward.

We find it as the breeze softly glistens across the lake, as the tree branches dance above us, as the sweet scent of a flower’s bloom fills the air, as the soft beach sand squishes between our toes. It’s there in a warm smile, a sincere welcoming, a caring hug. It is felt from the simplicity of animals. It’s heard with splendor tones and tasted in yummy delights. All around us beauty speaks, moving our hearts to a new place.

There are many ways of capturing hints of this beauty and the messages it brings us. For me, it’s through art. I see beauty in the strokes of a brush, the vibrancy of colors, the softness of textures, the scribbles of a child, the awe of purposeful placement, and in the laughter over mistaken attempts. It all together brings such profound beauty and joy into life.



At Serving Area Military, I teach a variety of art programs, all geared at connecting through art. Connection to beauty, life, self, family and new friendships, in a creatively explorative, playfully experiential way. Teaching is something I treasure and yes, art is teach-

able! Most of my participants in the programs have no previous art experience. It’s not necessary. Actually, there’s something exhilarating about trying something new and beauty is found in more than just the outcome. It’s all through the process.

Art became alive in my world when I was just a young girl. I grew up in Detroit during the 60s and 70s, a time when the city was in great duress and became known throughout the national spotlight. Those years brought unimaginable hardships to my life resulting

in much of my childhood and early adulthood lost to surgeries. While my brothers and sisters ran and played, I spent months, even years at a time healing after each surgery.

My early canvas was my hip high cast. Over the months I wore it, it transformed into a collage of colors, patterns, pictures, emotions, beauty! While my body needed stillness to heal, my imagination ran wild and free. There were many more casts to come so my slate was never full. Casts led to sketch books, multi media, pottery. No art form was off limits for me to try. It was my magic carpet to new worlds, my ladder to new heights.



As a young adult I saw youth hurting. I knew and understood this too well and decided to begin creating art programs to help them express and work though pain, to reconnect and see beauty and purpose in there lives. Teaching and using art to help others became my passion.

Over the years I’ve taught art in preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities, museums and also many community programs. I sat in the state board, working to develop standards in art curriculum. I ran an art center and gallery for more than 20 years. I’ve worked with hospitals offering be-



reavement art and healing programs; with courts helping youth whose parents had been incarcerated; in schools working with youth they were losing; in neighborhoods reaching out to youth on the streets; in churches using art as a catalyst for reflection and personal growth; creating art intervention programs for youth, adults and families; in the community bringing people together to create a large scale voice; and simply using art to bring people together to have memorable fun.

At Serving Area Military, I offer a variety of art programs, free for veterans, their widows or spouses and their children. Others may participate for a small fee. Whether you are wanting to just get out of the house and come create for a bit, or you are looking to hone in on learning more techniques, my art programs are the fun way enhance your learning. Check out the Sam Center on Facebook, or watch the website for a listing of all the art classes. I hope to meet you and your families in one of my classes soon.

Connecting through Art

Family art class: 10 a.m.
Veteran art class: Noon
Third Saturday of the month
Veteran’s Resource Center
8101 Manchester Ave. N.W., Canal Fulton

Free for veterans, widows and Gold Star families
Others welcome at \$10 per class

Call to register at 330-956-6162, ext. 2



SAM
CENTER
Serving Area Military

MAPS: Where history takes flight

Kim Kovesci, Executive Director, MAPS Air Museum

The mission at MAPS is to educate the public on the history of aviation and its impact on society. MAPS also has two other submissions. The first is to provide a place for retirees to come maintain their skills and contribute to the success of the organization. The second submission is to honor our veterans.

MAPS is preparing to begin its high school U.S. history program. Each year, they invite local high schools to visit MAPS to learn about WWII history. They tie the students' visit to the Ohio State Standards and talk about several specific topics including the Attack on Pearl Harbor, the Tuskegee Airmen, Rosie the Riveter and the WASPs. MAPS receive grants to bring the students, which pay for the entry, administration, substitute teachers and buses so this visit is at no-cost to the school district.

One of the most important activities performed is the restoration of their aircraft. MAPS is currently working on a F-104 Starfighter, SNB-5 Beechcraft, J-3 Cub, F7U Cutlass and FG-1 Goodyear Corsair. The Corsair project is very important because more than 4,000 were built at Good-year Aircraft in Akron during WWII. Goodyear gave MAPS a cockpit from their museum, and they had an engine and a propeller that was donated, so MAPS decided to build the rest of the airplane (picture reflects the current status of the restoration).



Another major project is the restoration of the second floor of

the main hangar, which happened during COVID. The new space will have a classroom, restrooms, kitchen, banquet hall and six museum rooms. Currently, two classrooms are completed, an art room and the F-100 SuperSabre Room. The remaining rooms will be a room for Bob Hope and three rooms for Vietnam displays.

MAPS is preparing for their spring activities which include a hunting and fishing show, coin show, military show, Cub Scout and Girl Scout Day and its spring pancake breakfast. Please check MAPS' website calendar for the exact dates and times of the events. Also, the facility is available for rent for weddings, fundraisers, retirements, birthdays and other special events.



MAPS staff are really good at telling stories of major events through the eyes of local people. They go into great detail with their displays and make them historically accurate. There is a famous quote that answers that question. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." - George Santayana

If you have never been to MAPS Air Museum or haven't been there in awhile, please consider attending one of museum's spring events to see how much has been improved. Visit www.mapsairmuseum.org for more information.



Serving Area Military

Watercolor Classes

**NEW STUDENTS CAN JOIN
JANUARY, MAY AND SEPTEMBER
MONDAYS AT 6:15PM
FREE FOR VETERANS, WIDOWS,
AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES
OTHERS WELCOME, \$20 PER CLASS;
& ONE TIME SUPPLY FEE: \$70
8101 MANCHESTER AVE NW
CANAL FULTON, OH 44614
Call 330-956-6162 Ext. 2 to register**

OPEN STUDIO ART



Bring a project you want to work on or come do projects we have available. Open studio is not a class, rather it is a fun way to get out, talk, create together and learn from each other. Mark your calendars... We'll meet twice a month on the following Wednesdays: 1/15, 1/29, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/12 & 4/26.

Open studio is from 10:30a -1p. You can participate anytime during that timeframe.

FREE FOR VETERANS, WIDOWS, & GOLD STAR FAMILIES. OTHERS WELCOME \$10.

**SAM CENTER
8101 MANCHESTER AVE NW
CANAL FULTON, OH 44614
CALL 330-956-6162 EXT. 2 TO REGISTER**

Ensuring no veteran is buried alone: The growth and impact of Ohio Western Reserve Ladies

Kat Frey-Johnson

In 2022, a small but determined group of volunteers formed Ohio Western Reserve Ladies (OWRL) with one mission: No veteran is buried alone.



Modeled after the Arlington Ladies, the organization ensures every veteran laid to rest at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery (OWRNC) receives the honor and recognition they deserve. We are one of the first five groups in the nation dedi-

icated to this cause, and in just a few short years, we have stood by or stood in for almost 1,000 burials—a number that continues to grow every week.

As we reflect on our progress and the work ahead, it’s clear that OWRL has become more than a small group of volunteers. We are a growing movement, deeply committed to honoring those who have served our country.

Expanding our mission

While our foundation remains standing in silent tribute at veteran burials and supporting the family, our role has expanded beyond the cemetery gates. The reality is that veterans and their families often struggle to navigate the patchwork of services available to them. Our work now includes community outreach, education and advocacy to ensure veterans and their families know what resources exist and how to access them. We are a community built to support the family of those interned at OWRNC.

Through our Final Salutes, we pause to recognize those who have passed without family present, ensuring they are not forgotten. We are also actively engaged in the Missing in America Project (MIAP), which works to identify and properly inter the cremated remains of unclaimed veterans. These efforts help fulfill our mission, not just in the moment of burial but throughout a veteran’s final journey.

Additionally, our involvement in Memorial Day events and partnerships with Wreaths Across America (WAA) ensure that recognition extends beyond the funeral. It is our belief that honoring a veteran does not end at the service—it is a continued act of remembrance.

Taking the lead on Wreaths Across America

This year marks a significant milestone for OWRL, as OWRNC has asked us to take the lead in managing Wreaths Across America for our cemetery. This event, held every December, ensures each veteran’s grave is marked with a wreath, symbolizing gratitude, remembrance and commitment to the promise that we will never forget their service.

For many families, wreaths are the visual representation of their veteran over the holidays. It is a time to reflect, honor and ensure those who served our country are remembered during the hol-

iday season. By organizing this effort, we can ensure a smooth, respectful and well-coordinated experience for both families and volunteers. However, meeting this challenge requires significant community support.

Challenges and opportunities

While OWRL has grown in recognition and reach, there are still challenges that need to be addressed. One of our greatest hurdles has been expanding our reach to counties that don’t directly touch the cemetery’s vicinity and other outlying areas. Many veterans from these communities are laid to rest at OWRNC, yet local veteran service organizations (VSOs) in those regions often aren’t connected to the resources available at the cemetery.

We firmly believe every VSO should be actively involved in honoring their own members who now rest at OWRNC. We are calling on these counties’ organizations and supporters to step forward, not just in attendance but in financial support. A donation of even \$500 to \$1,000 can make a significant impact, helping ensure that wreaths, ceremonies and remembrance projects continue to grow and reach every veteran.

Another ongoing challenge is public awareness. Many families don’t realize that organizations like OWRL exist until they experience a loss. By increasing outreach and education, we can help veterans and their families understand the resources available to them before they need them.

A personal commitment

For many of us at OWRL, this mission is personal. Co-chair Kat Frey-Johnson is the daughter of a submariner and the granddaughter of a WWII POW pilot, this work is more than just an act of service—it is a deeply held commitment to honoring those who have given so much for this country.

Co-chair Becky Clark, retired from the Ohio Army National Guard as a major in December 2021. In her guard time, she had the honor of serving as a casualty assistance officer/ casualty notification officer, and support for the families of the fallen along with multiple deployments.

To know firsthand the weight of military sacrifice, we, as a community, have the power to ensure every veteran receives the honor they deserve. When we stand at these services, we are not just standing for those who have passed—we are standing for the families, the history, and the promise that no one will be forgotten.

Looking ahead

As we move forward, our focus remains on sustaining and growing our impact. In 2025, we hope to:

- Expand our Final Salutes and Graveside Burials team to include



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- additional educational components
- Increase community partnerships to ensure every region of Northeast Ohio is represented at OWRNC
- Strengthen our fundraising efforts to fully support Wreaths Across America and related initiatives, raising enough funds for 35,000 wreaths
- Continue advocating for veteran families to receive the services and support they deserve

None of this is possible without the generosity and support of our community. Whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, every contribution helps us fulfill our mission.

How you can help

- **Donate** – Every dollar helps fund our ceremonies, wreaths and outreach. Even small contributions make a difference. Find which initiative you would like to donate to specifically on our website www.ohiowesternreserveladies.org
- **Volunteer** – Stand with us at services, assist with events or help coordinate WAA. Volunteer or become a member on our website or find us on Facebook @ohiowesternreserveladies
- **Spread the word** – Help us connect with VSOs, businesses and individuals who can support our mission. Email us at ohiowesternreserveladies@gmail.com with info or requests to have us present to your group!

We encourage everyone to consider how they can be a part of this important work. The simple act of remembrance can mean everything to a veteran’s family.

Final thoughts

OWRL began as a small group with a simple mission, but it has grown into something much larger. With each passing year, our responsibility deepens, and our impact expands. The honor we give to our veterans today will shape how future generations remember and respect those who served.

No veteran should be buried alone. With your help, we can ensure they never are. To learn more, donate, or get involved, visit ohiowesternreserveladies.org.

SAM VRC volunteer spotlight: Meet Melissa Gentry

Jodie Amiot, SAM Center



At SAM Center VRC, our volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission. This issue, we shine a well-deserved spotlight on Melissa “Missy” Gentry, a dedicated volunteer whose spirit of service knows no bounds.

Missy, a proud native of Alliance, Ohio, joined our team in October 2024 at the Canal Fulton location. From the moment she walked through our doors, her joyful spirit, eager demeanor and willingness to help made her an instant bright spot in our building. She excels in data entry and organization; and she was integral at bringing Christmas cheer and warmth to our building.

A Veteran herself, Missy served in the U.S. Army as a nurse from 1984 to 1994. During her time in service, she not only cared for others but also completed nursing school, an achievement she cherishes to this day. Her years in the Army took her to new places, exposing her to different cultures and customs. That experience shaped her into the open-minded, compassionate person she is today. “Serving in the Army broadened my perspective,” Missy shares. “It helped me embrace and appreciate traditions that I might not have understood otherwise.”

Despite her incredible journey and countless experiences, Missy’s greatest joy is her family. As the youngest of nine siblings, and married to the youngest of 11, she grew up in a lively household where there was never a dull moment. She and her beloved husband of 36 years have built a beautiful family of their own – raising five children, now aged nine to 34, and welcoming six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Above all, she values balance and being present for her loved ones.

We are beyond grateful to have Missy as part of the SAM Center VRC family. Her dedication to serving others, both in and out of uniform, is truly inspiring. So today, we extend a heartfelt “thank you” to Missy, who is quickly becoming a vital part of our Canal Fulton team. Thank you for your incredible heart of service here at SAM Center VRC.



Pilates for Veterans

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Veteran’s Resource Center

8101 Manchester Ave. N.W., Canal Fulton

Join Amanda Stutler, certified personal trainer, for practical Pilates, focusing on core/stability and endurance strength.

All Pilates levels are welcome.

Mats will be provided to veterans, or bring your own.

Free for veterans • \$10 for non-veterans

Pre-registration is required and can be done by calling SAM Center at 330-956-6162 or emailing lucia@servingareamilitary.org





;you matter



Through the eyes of a hero...

Jodie M. Amiot, SAM Center

“Through the eyes of a hero...”
When I found out I was invited to go on the Honor Flight Cleveland trip to Washington, D.C. last October, I experienced a myriad of emotions from shocked, amazed, awed and then excited! As a bit of a history nerd, I have loved the very few moments I have spent in Washington, D.C. immensely, but have never been to the memorials. The honor of traveling with Veterans to see these places that are so meaningful to them was not lost on me and I began to physically and emotionally prepare for this adventure.

None of the preparations I made could have equipped me for meeting SGT John Galehouse, Vietnam War veteran and all-around great guy. As I approached him to introduce myself as his guardian for our upcoming flight, he greeted me with the biggest smile and the heartiest handshake; in that moment, a friendship was born. On the nearly two-hour flight to Baltimore, instead of napping as we probably should have, we exchanged life stories, talked about our families and discussed the upcoming trip and all the memorials we would see. From the World War II Memorial, to the Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial, then the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, the Navy Memorial and the Air Force Memorial, it was going to be a day of amazing sights and adventures.



or Flight Cleveland started in 2007, in part, to address this need. From 2007- 2019 more than 3,570 U.S. veterans have flown with Honor Flight Cleveland whose mission is to bring veterans to see the memorials in Washington, D.C., which were erected in honor of their sacrifices. Priority is given to WWII veterans, Korean War veterans, then Vietnam War veterans, and SGT Galehouse signed up three years ago for this opportunity. As we walked through the WWII memorial, the magnitude of this mission became crystal clear. The wonder and majesty of this memorial was unlike anything I had seen before, and being in this place with these individuals was truly a blessing.

As we wrapped up the first tour and made our way back to the bus, my new friend became quieter and more introspective. He shared with me a story of when he first heard about the building of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, he was angry because it didn't seem like it matched the majesty of the other war memorials in Washington, D.C., being, 'just rock on the ground'. He felt like it wasn't "enough" for what the soldiers experienced and had gone through. As we passed the reflecting pool and the Lincoln Memorial on that

**“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”
- President Harry Truman**

gorgeous October day, each step brought us closer to my friend facing a time of his life that caused him the loss of a dear friend, the loss of a cousin and countless sleepless nights. SGT Galehouse was walking toward his past.

After stopping at the archive books to find where on the wall his friend's names are located, we slowly made our way toward the imposing wall. Even with all the visitors at the memorial, so many slowed at his approach and waited for him to pass them, murmurs of “thank you for your service” following his form. A few reached out their hands and patted him on the shoulder or reached out towards him. This respect had a

profound impact on him with memories of his return from war as a stark contrast to this display, and his eyes were damp as he would nod, or smile, or simply silently observe the approaching wall.

There are no real words to express the poignancy of this Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Its stark elegance is an eternal, silent, diary of the loss of a generation. The mirrored surface forces the viewer to face not only the names inscribed upon it, but their own reaction to those names. Being with John gave me a perspective that would have been impossible had I been there alone or with



anyone else besides a Vietnam Veteran who so keenly felt the loss those names signified. I was in awe. The names blend into each other, forming the very structure of the facade, and yet somehow leaving the reflection unmarred. However, as soon as your eyes focus on the individual inscriptions, then each one stands out in glaring clarity and one after another you can not stop reading the names, uttering for

each a silent prayer for the eternal rest of their souls. Their names are part of me, and I will never forget. An image that will forever remain burned into my mind is when SGT Galehouse and I found the name of his friend. He stood



before his friend's name in abject reverence, and as I watched his head bow before the wall, he reached his hand toward the name of his friend, and his reflection copied his movements and the past and the present met in a clash of tears and memories.

Continued on next page



and meeting a young man who was so excited to share stories of his own father who is a veteran of The Persian Gulf War. Each conversation was a balm to a wounded soul, and after spending sufficient time in respect, and getting rubbings of John’s names, we slowly made our way back to the tour bus. We both fervently agreed the Vietnam Veteran Memorial exceeded our expectations and as we walked past the reflecting pool we stopped for photos and laughed together, looking forward to the rest of the day.



Terence Joseph Kilbane
1947 - 1967
Wall: Panel 23E, Line 20

time at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was highlighted by two of our Korean War veterans changing the wreath during the wreath-laying ceremony and all of us amazed at the solemnity of the Changing of the Guard. We ate great food, saw so much beauty and made giant check marks on our lifetime bucket lists! We were honored to witness a military retirement ceremony at the Marine Corps Memorial under the shadow of the Iwo-Jima Statue and a promotion ceremony at the Air Force Museum tucked

We experienced the most meaningful memories of the Honor Flight Cleveland trip basking in the shadow of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We had the pleasure of meeting a group of awe-struck young people from Paris,

underneath the shining spires of the memorial. It was the most beautiful “postcard version” of an October day in Washington, D.C.; I feel like God was smiling at our group as we forged memories and developed friendships. Every member of our Honor Flight Cleveland Oct. 25 trip got something unique out of the trip, and I do not think it is possible to be in that place, with those heroes and not leave somehow intrinsically changed. I give a huge salute to the work of Honor Flight Cleveland. Every board member cares so much and works tirelessly to make a life-changing experience for the veterans they serve which was apparent from the personalized, well-planned tours, comfortable buses, the honor guard escorts leading us through cheers at the airport, the bugler and bagpiper who paid their respects through music, or the massive welcoming committee waiting for our Heroes upon their return to Cleveland- every single part of this experience was a true testimony to their service.

If you have a veteran in your life who would love to be part of an Honor Flight Cleveland trip, visit honorflightcleveland.org/applications/. The next Honor Flight dates are: April 11 and 25 and May 9 and May 30.



Thomas W. Lipsey III
1951-1972
Wall: Panel 2W, Line 104

Prepare for VA’s sign-in changes

We’re moving to a more modern online sign-in experience — to simplify your options and continue to protect your identity and benefits.



Here’s what’s changing for VA websites and mobile apps:

- After March 4, 2025, we’ll remove the option to sign in with a My HealtheVet user ID and password.
- After September 30, 2025, we’ll remove the option to sign in with a DS Logon username and password.
- You’ll then have two sign-in account options: **Login.gov** or **ID.me**.

Note: Your My HealtheVet portal isn’t going away. We’re just changing the way you sign in.

Create your account now

Learn why we’re making these changes — and how to create your Login.gov or ID.me account.



www.va.gov/sign-in-changes



#IAVA's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) is here for #veterans in need. If you're a veteran or veteran family member who needs immediate crisis support or help accessing resources & benefits, reach out to #QRF. Call 855-91RAPID 24/7 or visit us online: <https://bit.ly/3kbAXYw>



Healing through strumming: Guitar therapy for veterans at the VRC

Music has long been recognized for its therapeutic power. In recent years, guitar-focused music therapy has emerged as a powerful tool for supporting the mental, emotional and physical well-being of veterans. These music therapy groups, using the guitar as the primary instrument, offer a unique and engaging approach to healing.

Building a musical community

For many veterans, returning home after serving in the military can come with a host of challenges. Adjusting to civilian life, coping with trauma and managing stress or PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) can make it difficult to regain a sense of stability. Traditional therapies, while invaluable, are sometimes not enough to address the whole person. Music therapy offers a creative, non-verbal outlet for expression, helping veterans to process emotions, build confidence and develop a sense of community.

Guitar-based community music therapy groups specifically allow veterans to explore both individual and group dynamics. Whether they are learning to play the guitar for the first time or already have experience with the instrument, participants can bond over shared musical interests, collaborate in creating sound and ultimately feel empowered through music.

The role of music in healing

Music has the ability to tap into deep emotional and cognitive centers of the brain, making it an excellent tool for veterans seeking to heal. The process of learning and playing an instrument like the guitar involves concentration, coordination and motor skills, which can help veterans improve their cognitive abilities and regain a sense of control over their environment. Additionally, the act of playing music has been shown to reduce stress, enhance mood and improve mental health, all of which are crucial for veterans dealing with the psychological toll of their military experience.

Moreover, guitar-focused music therapy offers a unique form of self-expression. For many veterans, it can be difficult to articulate their experiences and emotions verbally. Music, however, can provide a means of communication that transcends words. Playing the guitar allows them to express feelings of grief, anger, joy or healing without the pressure to “talk about it.”

Building connections and support

One of the most significant benefits of guitar music therapy groups is the sense of camaraderie and connection they foster. Veterans often find solace in the shared experience of music-making, which can break down barriers and build a sense of community. Playing music in a group setting encourages collaboration, communication and trust-building, which are important aspects of the therapeutic process.

For many veterans, these groups offer a safe and supportive environment where they can connect with others who understand their challenges. The non-judgmental atmosphere in music therapy groups also provides a space for veterans to share their stories and bond over common experiences. These relationships, built through music, can help combat the isolation that many veterans feel after returning home.

The benefits beyond the guitar

While the primary focus of these therapy groups is music, the benefits extend far beyond learning to play the guitar. Veterans who participate in these groups often report increased feelings of self-worth and a sense of accomplishment, which can be particularly

important for individuals who may feel disconnected from society. Music therapy can also help improve focus, emotional regulation and overall well-being, enhancing their quality of life.

Looking ahead: expanding the reach of music therapy for veterans

The SAM Center has been offering our wellness-oriented guitar therapy group since 2018. The program has steadily grown over the past five years as more people in the community began to learn about the program and spread the word to other veterans.

We currently try to meet the needs of veterans who have a diverse background in music. In our weekly 5 p.m. group, we welcome beginners who are brand new to learning an instrument. They learn beginning music-reading skills as well as fundamental guitar techniques. At 6 p.m. each Wednesday, we focus on developing guitar skills - adding chords, strumming techniques and finger-picking patterns. And at 7 p.m. weekly, we continue those skills with more challenging techniques and songs for those players that have mastered groups one and two.

Brenda, our group leader, is a licensed and board-certified music therapist who brings many years of experience to our sessions. In the true spirit of a music community, many advancing group members volunteer their time weekly to sit in on groups one and two and provide great musical modeling, assistance and support to the newer group members. Duane, a group three participant, recently shared with Brenda that guitar therapy at the SAM Center is a “bright spot in each week”.

If you or a veteran you know is interested in guitar therapy, please reach out to the SAM Center and get signed up for an upcoming 14-week session.

Guitar Therapy for Veterans

New sessions starting in May & August

Wednesday

5 p.m. - Beginner

6 p.m. - Intermediate

7 p.m. - Advanced

Veterans Resource Center

8101 Manchester Ave. N.W., Canal Fulton

The SAM Center is offering a free, 14-week group guitar instruction program presented by certified music therapist, Brenda Wise. All veterans will receive a guitar and accessory kit at no cost. This guitar program is designed for veterans struggling with physical injuries, PTSD and other emotional distresses.

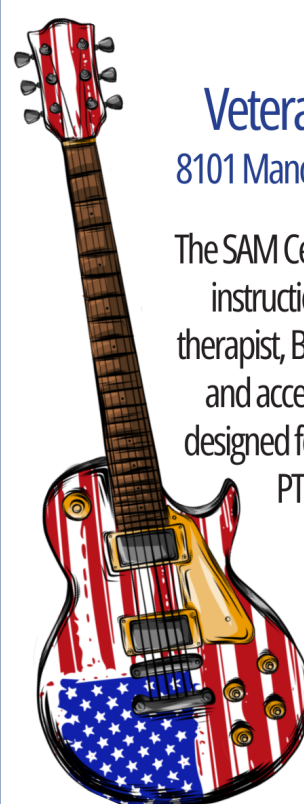
All classes are 45 minutes. Beginner guitar students are not expected to have any previous experience playing the guitar.

Pre-registration is required and can be done by calling SAM Center at 330-956-6162 EXT 2 or emailing

Jodie@servingareamilitary.org



Serving Area Military



Understanding the crucial role of nexus letters in VA disability claims

For veterans seeking disability benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), establishing a direct connection between their military service and current medical conditions is paramount. A pivotal tool in this process is the nexus letter—a formal medical document that can significantly influence the outcome of a VA disability claim.

What is a nexus letter?

A nexus letter is a detailed medical opinion authored by a qualified healthcare professional. Its primary purpose is to establish a link, or “nexus” between a veteran’s in-service events and their present medical conditions. The letter should be composed by a qualified professional who has analyzed the medical history of the veteran. The letter should establish a clear cause-and-effect relationship between the disability and the veteran’s military service.

The importance of a nexus letter

While not mandatory, a well-crafted nexus letter can be the deciding factor in the approval of a VA disability claim. It is particularly vital in scenarios where:

- **Non-presumptive conditions:** For ailments not automatically presumed by the VA to be service-related, a nexus letter provides the necessary medical linkage.
- **Lack of in-service documentation:** If a condition wasn't documented during service, the letter can bridge the evidentiary gap by explaining how the condition is related to service events or exposures.
- **Complex medical cases:** In situations involving multiple health issues or conditions that manifested post-service, a nexus letter can clarify the connections.

Essential components of a nexus letter

To effectively support a disability claim, a nexus letter should encompass the following elements:

1. **Identifying information:** A letter should begin by listing the date, the veteran’s name and the veteran’s file number or Social Security Number.
2. **Physician’s credentials:** A clear statement of the medical professional’s name, qualifications and expertise.
3. **Current diagnosis:** A precise identification of the veteran’s current medical condition.
4. **Comprehensive medical history review:** An analysis of the veteran’s service medical records, post-service medical history and any pertinent documents.
5. **Medical opinion on service connection:** A well-reasoned explanation detailing how the condition is linked to military service, using the standard of “at least as likely as not,” “more than likely” or “highly likely.”
6. **Rationale/supporting medical evidence:** References to relevant medical literature, studies or established medical principles that substantiate the connection of the specific veterans’ disability to military service.
7. **Signature and date:** The letter must be signed and dated by the authoring medical professional.

Selecting the right medical professional

The credibility of a nexus letter heavily depends on the qualifications of its author. Veterans are advised to seek letters from:

- **Treating physicians:** Doctors who have an established history of treating the veteran and are familiar with their medical background.
- **Specialists:** Medical professionals with expertise in the specific area related to the veteran’s condition.
- **Independent medical examiners:** Physicians experienced in conducting evaluations for VA disability claims.

It’s crucial the chosen professional is willing to invest the time required to thoroughly review the veteran’s history and provide a detailed, evidence-based opinion.

Why use a nexus letter?

A nexus letter is a powerful tool in the VA disability claims process, providing the essential link between a veteran’s military service and their current medical condition.

By securing a well-documented and professionally authored nexus letter, veterans can substantially enhance their chances of a successful disability claim, ensuring they receive the benefits and recognition they rightfully deserve.

SAM

CENTER

Serving Area Military

F R E E S T Y L E

FRIDAYS

FREE FORM GUITAR JAM SESSIONS



12-2PM

1ST & 3RD FRIDAY

SAM CENTER VRC

8101 MANCHESTER AVE NW

CANAL FULTON, OH 44614

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

330-956-6162 EXT 2

jodie@servingareamilitary.org

★★★★★

S.A.M. CENTER & WILD YOGA STUDIO

KIDS YOGA

9:00 - 10:00AM

1ST AND 3RD SATURDAY EACH MONTH

AT S.A.M. CENTER IN CANAL FULTON



FREE FOR VETERAN FAMILIES

\$5 FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

★★★★★

11

SAM Center Massillon volunteer spotlight: Meet Joanne Rodgers

Jodie Amiot, SAM Center



At The SAM Center, our volunteers are the heart and soul of our mission. Without their dedication, compassion and selflessness, we would not be able to serve our veterans with the care and dignity they deserve. This month, we shine our Volunteer Spotlight on Joanne Rodgers, a remarkable woman whose energy and passion inspire us all.

Joanne is a ray of sunshine at our Massillon location, where she wears many hats with grace and enthusiasm. Whether she’s managing client schedules, assisting volunteers, guiding clients through the pantry or writing heartfelt thank-you notes, Joanne jumps in wherever needed—always with a smile.

At 76 years young, Joanne is a powerhouse of energy. Her journey with the SAM Center began seven years ago with a simple act of

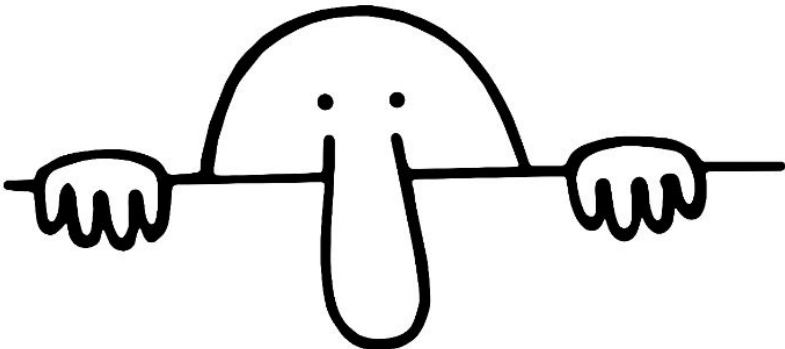
kindness—she stopped by to donate 10 jars of peanut butter, asked if we needed help and has been a dedicated volunteer ever since!

Originally from Pittsburgh, Joanne stays busy even outside of volunteering. She enjoys reading, gardening, solving jigsaw puzzles and playing word games. Family is very important to Joanne; she is deeply connected to her three sisters, three brothers, a son, a daughter and a grandchild.

Alongside her husband of 56 years, Joanne also volunteers for the Patriot Project, a grassroots movement dedicated to providing chiropractic care to active military personnel, their families, wounded warriors and Gold Star dependents. Her passion for serving veterans is personal—she volunteers in honor of her father, brother and son, who have all served their country.

Joanne’s superpower is helping others, and she is truly beloved by all at the SAM Center. Her words sum it up best: “We cannot do enough for our veterans.”

Thank you, Joanne, for your unwavering dedication and service. You are an inspiration to us all!



The Players Guild: Access2Arts program supports military families



The Access2Arts program, initiated in 2014, aims to make theatre accessible to active military personnel, veterans, and women and children in temporary housing. The Players Guild Theatre matches 100% of audience donations, doubling the impact and providing tickets for families in the community.

In the 2024-2025 season alone, more than \$15,000 worth of tickets have been donated to the SAM Center, showcasing the profound impact of community support.

This program highlights the commitment to inclusivity and cultural enrichment, ensuring the magic of theatre remains accessible to all through collective generosity. To donated to the Access2Arts program, call 330-244-3224 or visit playersguildtheatre.com.

If you are interested in tickets to Hair-spray on April 11 or Newsies on May 16 at The Players Guild Theatre (located at Kent State Stark Campus) please call Jodie at 330-956-6162, ext 2.

The Players Guild Theatre was founded in 1932 by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Truxton, who were committed to fostering a lifelong appreciation of the arts among citizens in our community. The Players Guild Theatre is recognized as one of the oldest continually operating theaters in the nation.

Complimentary Replacement Dog Tags



Serving Area Military



As a service to our veterans and their families, Serving Area Military and Veterans is pleased to offer a replacement set of dog tags to any veteran or family member of a deceased veteran. Just complete this form and mail it to the Serving Area Military, 8101 Manchester Ave NW, Canal Fulton, OH 44614

The replica Dog Tags have Embossed (raised) text on a 2" x 1½" dull stainless steel Dog Tag, rolled edge up, hole on left with the suggested regulation format:

Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ MI _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Branch: _____ Years Served: _____

Dog Tag Layout

Dog tag will be spaced exactly as indicated. The dog tag may do up to 5 lines and 14 characters.

Northeast Ohio Women Veterans organization active in Akron-Canton

Jennifer Baun, President, Northeast Ohio Women Veterans Unit 21

Northeast Ohio Women Veterans is a unit of Military Women Across the Nation, a women veteran’s service organization, comprised of women from all branches of service and having served during all military eras.



The mission is keeping all military women, past and present, informed of current benefits associated with their military service, keep female veterans connected, while preserving our common history and provide opportunities for women in tomorrow’s armed forces through networking, social, and service with and for other female veterans.

Units and members participate in community affairs, parades, veteran events and celebrations and other patriotic activities. By doing so, making communities aware of the important contributions that women continue to make as members of the armed services.

The Northeast Ohio Women Veterans Unit 21 has been actively engaged in the area for nearly 40 years through these same type of events especially focusing on women veterans’ needs and comradery. Annual programs have included the Summit County Stand Down, Canfield and other fairs, picnics, etc. The group typically meets for business/social meetings in the Akron-Canton area but is expanding activities and social engagements in-person and virtually during the 2025 calendar year to engage other women veterans throughout the area. They are planning to include the Serving Area Military Veterans’ Resource Center in the near future.

Women veterans are encouraged to follow and join their Facebook page Northeast Ohio Women Veterans Unit 21 | Facebook to stay apprised of upcoming events and activities. You may also check out the national website <http://www.milwomen.org/home.html>.

Military Women Across the Nation was originally established in 1979, as WAVES National. It continues its legacy to serve to encourage patriotism and perpetuate the honorable history of women who served the United States of America in the military. In 1985 the IRS formally recognized the organization as a Veterans Non-profit Service Organization under IRS 501(c)(19).

Windsor Laurelwood offers assistance for veterans in crisis

Samantha May, Community Liaison

Windsor Laurelwood is a free standing, psychiatric hospital located in Willoughby, Ohio, and is adjacent to Lake West Hospital. Licensed for 159 beds through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Windsor Laurelwood is accredited as both a hospital and a behavioral health provider. Certified by The Joint Commission and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Windsor Laurelwood provides a range of mental health and substance abuse disorder services to meet the needs of individuals in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Services are delivered by a multi-disciplinary team and tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual.

Inpatient services

Windsor Laurelwood operates three distinct service areas comprising of seven units within the hospital. Each unit within the facility serves a particular population.

- Child and adolescent: child/adolescent mental health (ages 10 - 17), 20 beds
- Adult psychiatric services: adult mental health, 54 beds with two separate units
- Adult dual diagnosis: 26 beds
- Adult psychiatric intensive care: 12 beds
- Adult substance abuse disorder: 35 beds, detox is open, substance rehab closed until early 2025

Outpatient services

Windsor Laurelwood provides both partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient levels of care. Outpatient programs are available to individuals stepping down from inpatient services, referrals from the community and those who self-refer. Please note that all IOP programs can be either in-person or Tele-health.

- Adult mental health PHP and IOP
- Adult dual diagnosis PHP and IOP (IOP day and evening)
- Adult substance abuse disorder PHP and IOP (IOP day and evening)

- Adolescent mental health partial hospitalization (on hold)

Assessment and referral

Assessment and referral services are provided at Windsor Laurelwood 24/7. Staff triages calls from professionals and self-referral inquiries. The department also provides tele-assessment services to individuals within a variety of settings. Call Assessment and Referral at 400-953-3295.

Help for Veterans in Crisis

Did you know that the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act is now in effect?

Veterans who were discharged in any way other than dishonorably who are experiencing a suicidal crisis can go to any mental healthcare facility for no-cost treatment. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

The act allows the VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.
- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.

This expansion of care is designed to help prevent veteran suicide by guaranteeing no-cost mental healthcare in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Don't wait. If you or someone you know is a veteran and is in crisis, we are here to help.

Call 800-438-4673 to schedule a no-cost assessment today. We are here 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Windsor Laurelwood

35900 Euclid Ave
Willoughby, OH 44094
800-438-4673
windsorlaurelwood.com

Physicians are on the medical staff of this facility, but, with limited exceptions, are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of this facility. The facility shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians. Model representations of real patients are shown. For language assistance, disability accommodations and the nondiscrimination notice, visit our website. 231062-0917 5/23

Free hunting, fishing licenses

Ohio resident veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled and former POWs may receive free five-year hunting and fishing licenses. Ohio Revised code 1533.12 provides for eligible resident disabled veterans and former prisoners of war to receive, free of charge, a:

- Fishing license
- Hunting license
- Fur taker permit
- Deer permit
- Wild turkey permit
- Wetlands habitat stamp
- Any combination of these licenses

Eligible applicants will be approved for free Disabled Veteran licenses for a five-year period from the date of notification. The licenses are only valid for the current license year and expire annually on last day in February. Each license year, the disabled veteran will need to obtain new licenses. If approved, you **must**:

- Annually obtain your licenses from a license agent or the internet during the five-year approval period.
- If your residency or eligibility status changes during the five-year period you must notify the Division of Wildlife.

For more information, call 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543) or to obtain an application, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/39c67vk8>

BeThere peer support available

The BeThere peer assistance program, in partnership with Military OneSource, offers support to service members (including National Guard soldiers and Reservists), their families, and transitioning Veterans up to 365 days after separation or retirement.



Through this program, you can talk privately with peer coaches who are Veterans, service members, or military spouses. Spouses and children over the age of 18 can call at any time. Children below the age of 18 can call if a parent is present and consents to the conversation.

To talk with a peer coach, call Military OneSource's free, confidential peer support services at 800-342-9647. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

VFW Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 9795 Canal Fulton
257 N Canal St Canal Fulton
330-854-9994

Post 1066 Barberton
75 6th St NW Barberton
234-706-2009

Post 8745 Mogadore
383 Randolph Rd
330-628-9140

Post 3747 Canton
1935 Avalon Ave NE
330-454-0479

Post 5047 Navarre
6680 Woodland Hill Rd
330-879-9978

Charles C Helserer Memorial Aux 3124
322 Erie St N, Massillon
816-561-8655

Post 9904 Greentown
8695 Cleveland Ave NW
330-499-5666

Post 8975 Akron Airport
1649 Krumroy Rd
330-784-0230

Post 1089 Wadsworth
121 Main St
330-336-5008

Post 7490 Constitution Auxiliary
7459 Columbus Rd, Louisville
816-561-8655

Donald G. Whetstone Auxiliary 4120
213 Rosevelt, Minerva
330-868-4517

Post 3446 Col. Elmore F. Taggart Post
430 W Market St, Orville
330-682-4971

Post 3747 Walter S. Auer Post
8695 Cleveland Ave NW
330-499-5666

Post 3345 Strongsville
430 W Market St, Orville
330-682-4971



The 10th anniversary celebration continues!

Join SAM Center for its annual

Reverse Raffle

50/50 • Sideboard
Basket and ultimate raffles • 54-card pickup

Saturday, Oct. 18
5:30 p.m. - Doors open
6:30 p.m. - Dinner
Veterans' Resource Center
8101 Manchester Ave. N.W., Canal Fulton

Reverse raffle ticket and dinner: \$50
Dinner ticket only: \$25
There will be a cash bar

RSVP: Call SAM Center at 330-956-6162, ext. 2
or email jodie@servingareamilitary.org

Total payout over course of event is \$2,000!



Serving Area Military

Local Vietnam Veteran shares story of service, family and life's passion

Jodie M. Amiot, SAM Center

Here at SAM Center, we have the privilege of meeting a lot of amazing and inspirational individuals. From our volunteers, to our donors, to all the veterans we serve on a day-to-day basis, we are humbled to know so many of you and to learn from your experiences and endeavors. Community is the fabric of life and knits us all together through our interactions, connections and shared experiences with each other. Every once in a while, we are thrilled to shine a spotlight on some of these community members and share a little about who they are and what makes them special.

One such individual who has shaped his own life around community, duty and service is a local Vietnam Veteran and family man, Carl Massouh, CEO and founder of C. Massouh Printing Co. For anyone who isn't familiar with the company, C. Massouh Printing Co. is a skilled design and printing company as well as a local pillar of the community. Founded in 1989 by Carl and his wife, C. Massouh Printing is a part of the Canal Fulton, Massillon West Stark and Canton Regional Chambers of Commerce, and Carl is a member of American Legion Post 44 in Canton, the VFW Post 9759 in Canal Fulton, Massillon Museum, the Akron Art Museum and involved in almost every aspect of community life. Taking orders and shipping not just locally, but all over the world, C. Massouh Printing has made a name for itself, producing everything from fliers and packaging marketing materials to T-shirts, cups and full-scale promotional items. The company prides itself on prioritizing the customer's needs and knows each project is, "more than just ink and paper."

Carl Massouh has not always been a printer though, a native of the Canton area, he joined the Army in 1960 when he was just 18 years old. With a letter of guarantee to attend missile school in hand, Mr. Massouh faced one of many life lessons when the Army decided he was going to be a medic instead, and be ready to go anywhere in the world at a moment's notice. Not afraid of duty, and not about to give up, Mr. Massouh was stationed near Fort Meade, and then transferred into data processing at Fort Hayes. He had the ability to come home on weekends as well as take an economics class at The Ohio State University. He was discharged just five days after Kennedy was assassinated. He was sure they were going to find a reason to make him stay, but Mr. Massouh was off on his next great adventure.

Besides service, Mr. Massouh's mission is led by loyalty to family and his love of art and music. Upon being discharged from the Army, he leapt at the chance to come back home and attend college. His ambition and desire to study art brought him to Malone College, which didn't actually have enough art classes for him, then to Akron Art School of Design, which actually closed down and finally to Kent. Screen printing, designing, clay pottery, painting, and jewelry-making filled his days and fueled his love of working with his hands and doing something he was passionate about.

Mr. Massouh loved his classes so much, and that was only to be eclipsed by meeting his future wife, Cheryl, who worked summers and holidays at O'Neil's Department Store. He graduated with a bachelor's in fine arts, and then they were wed in 1968 and began their life journey together. As a fun fact to true love, he even made his and Cheryl's wedding bands with his own two hands. With his art degree at the ready, he looked for jobs in advertising or marketing, but every job required travel and long hours and the new husband and soon-to-be father was not interested in spending his hard-earned paychecks in parking fees or doing anything that was going to take him away from home more than he needed to be, so he found the world of printing.

Using his hands to do what he loved; he was immersed in printing sales. Before the advent of computers, every project was broken down into its core colors, shapes and components from photos and negatives before being reassembled on a light table, reconstructing them into proofs using X-Acto knives and tape. For more than 19 years and more than three different printing companies, he worked to learn every facet of the printing business, until 1989, when he was inspired, with his wife by his side, to start his next great adventure. Being "true to his ideas," C. Massouh Printing Co. - a veteran-owned company - was born at the Massouh kitchen table, between family meals, children's art projects and bedtime stories, all fueled by the same love of service, family, and art that had dictated all his previous decisions.

Now, 36 years later—with three children, nine grandchildren and uncountable extended family members and friends—Mr. Massouh has created something magical. Not only is C. Massouh Printing Co. a facility called upon and trusted by countless clients, but Carl has the absolute joy of working side-by-side every day with his wife and his talented and hard-working sons Chris and Steve, their families and all their wonderful staff. The skill he credits most to his success is kindness and being nice to people. "You HAVE to give back. You have to be kind to people. Family is important." With his family working with him every step of the way, he has created a legacy family business of quality, service, excellence and kindness that is known for providing exactly what their clients want with attention to detail and timeliness as well as integrity and humility. C. Massouh Printing is more than just a printing company. It is a testament to hard work, kindness and community. "Above all, thank God for all his blessings and God-Bless America."

I invite you to check out C. Massouh Printing at www.cmassouhprinting.com or drop in at 590 Elm Ridge Ave. N.E., Canal Fulton, OH 44614. You can also reach them at 330-408-7330. Print, apparel, fulfillment, promotions and packaging...just ask!



I WANT TO SHOW MY LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR STARK COUNTY VETERANS

- ☐ I/we would like to donate \$_____ towards the purchase of food for veterans
- ☐ I/we would like to donate \$_____ towards helping one veteran transition from homelessness
- ☐ I/we will be dropping off food donations

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Please make checks payable to Serving Area Military.
Items can be dropped off from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday or mailed to
SAM Center VRC, 8101 Manchester Ave. N.W., Canal Fulton, OH 44614.
We welcome you to stop out and take a tour of our facility, speak to our volunteers
and see the difference you are making.

THE MEMORIAL OPEN

at Glenmoor

May 25, 2025



SAM
CENTER

SERVING AREA MILITARY

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Title Sponsor \$15,000

- Foursome
- Live scoring, welcome video, greeting and thank you on golf cart sponsored by your company
- Additional recognition at the event
- Company name/logo on all event marketing
- Company name/logo on website and all social media platforms
- Foursome for company to play at Glenmoor during the 2024 season
- May distribute company literature
- May provide company gifts with logo

Platinum Sponsor \$10,000

- Foursome
- Additional recognition at the event
- Company name/logo on all event marketing
- Company name/logo on website and all social media platforms
- May distribute company literature
- May provide company gifts with logo

Gold Sponsor \$8,000

- Foursome
- Additional recognition at the event
- Company name/logo on all event marketing
- Company name/logo on website and all social media platforms
- May distribute company literature

Shopping Spree Sponsor \$8,000

(Each player will receive a gift from the pro shop)

- Foursome
- Recognition day of the event
- Company signage in the pro shop
- Company logo on all social media platforms and website
- May distribute company literature



GLENMOOR

100% of the proceeds from this event STAYS locally in OUR hometown to support OUR veterans:

- ★ Who are homeless, transitioning into housing
- ★ Who experience food insecurities
- ★ Who benefit/need therapy programs
- ★ Who need connected to VA benefits/resources

Sponsors, please email your logo to Lucia@servicingareamilitary.org
 Thank you for being a Patriot and helping our local veterans in need.

*The SAM Center is a 501(C)3 Non-Profit organization. A portion of your sponsorship is tax deductible.

Lucia Cirese | Executive Director | SAM Center | (330) 324-1819 | Lucia@servicingareamilitary.org

Join SAM Center for the Memorial Open on May 25 at Glenmoor Golf • Volunteer • Sponsor

THE MEMORIAL OPEN

at Glenmoor

May 25, 2025



SERVING AREA MILITARY

I/We would like to register a foursome: \$300 each or \$1,200 per foursome

☐ 8:00 AM Shotgun Start
 ☐ 1:00 PM Shotgun Start

Golfer #1 _____
Golfer #2 _____

Golfer #3 _____
Golfer #4 _____

I/We would like to be a sponsor of The Memorial Open at Glenmoor:

☐ Sponsor a veteran or service member

☐ Sponsor a veteran or service member foursome

☐ Title Sponsor

☐ Platinum Sponsor

☐ Gold Sponsor

☐ Shopping Spree Sponsor

☐ Lunch Sponsor

☐ Beverage Cart Sponsor

☐ Ice Cream Sponsor

☐ 19th Hole FLOP Shot Contest

☐ 19th Hole Putting Contest

☐ Registration Table Sponsor

☐ Golf Cart Sponsor

☐ Driving Range Sponsor

☐ Scoreboard Sponsor

☐ Locker Room Sponsor

☐ Golf Course Hole Sponsor

Name: _____
Company/Business: _____

Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover
CC#: _____
Exp Date: _____
Sec Code: _____

Please make checks payable to SAM Center. Mail your registration form with payment to:
 Serving Area Military & Veterans - SAM Center 8101 Manchester Ave NW | Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614



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