

# WARRIOR WEEKEND PROGRAM



## NEWSLETTER – VOLUME 3 – DEC 2022

### President's Message

James J. Lafferty

We completed our seventh and final weekend trip for the year 2022 in November, and the troops and their families had a wonderful weekend. It was a great way to wrap up the year. There were six soldiers and ten family members for a total of 16 personnel. For this year, for the seven weekend trips completed, a total of 118 personnel participated in the weekends and were our guests. We were able to provide these seven trips, for these 118 personnel, because of your kindness and generosity towards our Warrior Weekend Program, and we thank you. Also, with the conclusion of these seven trips, the total number of weekend trips the program has provided since its inception, is 105 weekend trips. Over the years, we have made many friends and helped in their recovery process. We provided these American Heroes the opportunity to get away from the hospital and military environments, and just relax and reconnect with their families.

### WARRIOR WEEKEND PROGRAM OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

James J. Lafferty, President  
James H. Gallagher, Senior Vice President  
Scott Underkoffler, Vice President  
Joe Green, Vice President  
Karen Marvel, Treasurer  
Beth McGinn, Secretary  
Riley Schmidt, Social Media Director  
Buddy Clark  
Tom Dahl  
Garth Miller  
Bob Pruchniewski  
Ron Webster  
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As we come to the end of another year, it is important to take a moment and review the events of the past year and look forward to the next year. What made 2022 so successful was the generosity of many donors who supported the Warrior Weekend Program with their kindness, compassion and generosity. The following are the donors who made significant contributions during 2022:

American Veterans Thrift Store  
Steve & Victoria Hoff  
Saint Paul's UMC  
Knights of Columbus Council 7297  
AMVETS Post 22  
Paradise Pub  
All Saints Parish Thrift Shop  
Holcombe Transportation  
Phillies Baseball Club  
American Legion Post 5  
Mr. Jake Comer  
American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 28  
Angola By the Bay Sea Gals  
AMVETS Post 2  
Sons of the American Revolution

Heritage Shores Military Club  
Fraternal Order of the Eagles  
Women's Civic Club of Bethany Beach  
AMVETS Post 22 Auxiliary  
Toyota Veterans Association  
AMVETS Post 2 Auxiliary  
Mr. Tom Cronshaw  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Sons of The American Legion Dept. of DE  
Sons of The American Legion Sq. 28  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17  
Vietnam Vets of America Chapter 1105  
Knights of Columbus Chapter 12569  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 5  
Saint Michaels

## NOVEMBER 3, 4, 5 & 6, REHOBOTH DE TRIP COMMENTS

### Major Marthana Loddy, Haymarket, VA

“The Boardwalk Plaza Hotel was amazing, peaceful and an electric treat for me and my family. Something we would never indulge in if not for Warrior Weekend. The restaurant was one of our favorite things, sitting outside in the bench. And we loved Emeril and Moose. Add in /American Legion Posts 17 and 28, and we were beyond humbled to have this experience. I personally feel like there is nothing about this experience I would change. If a peaceful existence is the goal, it was one of the most peaceful experiences of my career. Thank you so much. P.S. It’s the hotel & staff and the people at the American Legion that made this trip beautiful.”

### Captain Sharone Countach-Phelps, Dumfries, VA.

“I can’t say enough great things about the Rehoboth Beach Delaware trip. From the time you settle into the beautiful hotel, you realize you are in for a weekend of relaxation. The trip allowed me to disengage with my family. I had time to listen to the sound of the waves and was given time to explore, rest and laugh. The committee members of the Warrior Weekend Program were easy going, fun to be around and engaging. They were attentive to the needs of their guests. I love the interaction they had with the children of guests and made them feel special. The location, scheduled activities and the weekend was second to none. I thank you from my husband and myself.”

### Sergeant Dominique Elliot

“I would like to start off with there was good communications prior to and during the weekend. Ms. Karen stayed up late to greet us when we arrived very late. I was able to make it to dinner Friday night. I really truly enjoyed myself. My son had a blast the entire weekend. Everyone was very nice at the dinner and also the hotel staff. The food at the hotel was great! I loved the breakfast. The itinerary was flexible and provided other things to do with my son. I liked not having scheduled activities. Everything was perfect and no changes are needed.”

### Staff Sergeant Frederick Hink – Woodstreak, VA

“Hotel arrangements were excellent! Food at the hotel was great! The itinerary was good, enjoyed the Elvis Show, very nice. Enjoyed having downtime and just relaxing. Enjoyed sharing during mealtime. Enjoyed company. Overall great time. Thank you so much.”

## PICTURES FROM NOV TRIP TO DELAWARE





Beth Townsend McGinn, Secretary

After my husband (a Viet Nam-era veteran) and I retired to Delaware after long careers with Sunoco, I began looking for some ways I could honor my family and their service to our country during WWII. So in 2002 I joined the American Legion Auxiliary at AL Post 28. The American Legion Auxiliary has provided me with many opportunities to remember them by continuing to help our veterans, military and families and the community.

Through my journey in the American Legion Auxiliary, from Unit President to Department President, to National Chairman, I found many ways to pay my family back for what they sacrificed especially my two Gold Star Grandmothers.

Two of my favorite organizations are Home of the Brave for homeless veterans and Warrior Weekend helping our wounded heroes. It has been so rewarding to see the smiles on faces of the Warrior Weekend families who may not have been able to visit with their loved ones due to treatment.



Karen Townsend Marvel, Treasurer

When I retired from the Social Security Administration after 30+ years, I knew I couldn't sit at home and do nothing. I volunteered as the Treasurer for the American Legion Auxiliary and remained as such for five years. During that time, I was approached by Jim Lafferty who wanted to know if I would be interested in joining the Warrior Weekend Program. Of course, I said "YES," and I am so glad I did. I have been here for 10 years now. As my sister, Beth Townsend McGinn states in her bio, we both want to honor our family and their service, and this is just one small way we can do it.

Even though I am a volunteer, I have received so much satisfaction and joy seeing how this program has helped so many wounded soldiers and their families enjoy the weekends we provide them. Looking at their comments and the pictures, it makes me so proud that I am involved with helping this happen. I have made so many new and lasting friendships. In addition, we have a great group of volunteers and sponsors who support the program. Without them none of this would happen.



Buddy Clark, Director

When I first learned of the Warrior Weekend Program, about 8 or 9 years ago, I remember being impressed by the program itself and the volunteers who make it happen. I remember thinking how great it would be to be part of this tremendous program. I recall what sets this program apart from most others is that all of the volunteers are just that, Volunteers. No one gets paid in this program. Every penny raised for this program goes directly to the program itself, and as such, to the troops. I have found it true that the smiles on the faces of the soldiers and their families, to be given the opportunity to be away from the hospital setting for a weekend, and enjoy time together is payment enough for us. It gives me great pride to help fulfill the mission statement of the Warrior Weekend Program. Of all the volunteer work I've been involved in, this is the most personally rewarding to me.