

WARRIOR WEEKEND PROGRAM



NEWSLETTER – VOLUME 2 – NOV 2022

President's Message

James J. Lafferty

The purpose of this newsletter, Volume #2, and all subsequent volumes, is to let our donors know what happened to the donations they were kind enough to send to the program. Sending a thank you letter is a good thing; however, it doesn't let them know what was accomplished with their donations.

In Volume #1, our initial issue, the trips to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, Chincoteague, Virginia, and the trip to Philadelphia were covered. They were the first three trips for this year 2022. As of this issue, we have completed a total of six trips with one remaining, and this last trip will take place in November and will be to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

In this Volume, we will cover the last three completed trips. In July, the troops went to Hershey Park, PA. A total of five troops and 15 family members had a blast and spent some quality time with their families. As with all our trips, they arrived on a Thursday and departed on Sunday. In September, the troops went to Chincoteague, Virginia for four days, away from the military and hospital environment, and just relaxed with their families. Five soldiers and ten family members made this trip. In October there were three soldiers and eight family members who made the trip to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. You probably have noticed that we repeat our trips to Chincoteague, Virginia and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. This is based on the wishes of the troops who have made these trips in the past. They all seemed to prefer these areas along with Philadelphia, PA and Hershey Park, PA.

Hershey Park, PA Trip - July 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2022

Sergeant First Class Marcos Rios wrote: "This was a perfect family weekend. The itinerary provided us time to spend together as a family. The planned events and activities were perfect. Recommending we bring water anticipating a hot weekend was very helpful. The hosts were very positive and welcoming and gracious. My family and I are very grateful for everything, and we thank you for everything you do."



Chincoteague, Virginia Trip – September 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2022

Staff Sergeant Narenda Banstola wrote: "No amount of thank you is enough for the generosity and effort put in place by the Warrior Weekend members to arrange for this relaxing weekend program. This provides much needed mental relaxation away from the daily appointments and treatments. Thank you again for going above and beyond to arrange the weekend of relaxation and reflection for us and our families."



Rehoboth Beach, Delaware Trip – October 6, 7, 8 & 9, 2022

Major Joe Yetter wrote: "The hotel was excellent and in a perfect location. The two planned activities were a lot of fun and a great way to get to know the volunteers from the program. We were able to split our time perfectly with relaxing and the planned activities. Getting to know the ladies at AMVETS Post 22 was nice and their food was amazing. The number of days is just right and allowed us a travel day to arrive. Everything was planned perfect and stayed on time. All the materials provided were accurate and helpful to the area and events. It really was a perfect weekend getaway for us and thank you."

Major Craig Shearer, Moses Lake, WA wrote: "The hotel was beautiful. We had a wonderful time. The food was excellent. Great service and atmosphere. The itinerary provided sufficient flexibility to spend as a family. It was a wonderful weekend, and we were extremely grateful for your staff and their hard work. I was especially grateful for the members of AmVets and their warm reception and dinner. It was truly a blessing to our family.

Thank You!



The rest of the comments from the troops and their families, as well as pictures from these trips, can be found on our web site at

www.warriorweekend.net under 2022 trips.

As you can see from these comments, the key word each use is, they had time to "relax" and be with their families. That is what our program is about, and your donations provide us the funds to make these weekends available to these American Heroes and their families and we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Starting with this issue, we will be highlighting the members of our program. In this issue Jim Lafferty, President, Jim Gallagher, Senior Vice President, Scott Underkoffler, Vice President, and Joe Green, Vice President will be featured. They will give you an idea as to why they are part of this program.

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Warrior Weekend Corp.

PO Box 63

Harbeson, DE 19951



Jim Lafferty, President

I was personally involved when the Warrior Weekend program initially started in 2007. It started with a tour of the original Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. The tour was conducted on a Saturday, and it became obvious that on the weekend, if the soldiers didn't have a doctor's appointment, or had any testing scheduled, there was nothing for them to do. That's when the idea originated, why not get them out of the hospital and military environment for a weekend. After the first couple weekends we provided, I realized that we were definitely doing the right thing, for these heroes and their families. The smiles and happiness I saw when the families were together, away from the hospital and military environment, was so meaningful and personally rewarding. Their happiness convinced me that as long as there were soldiers in a recovery situation, we will continue this program. They and their families have sanctified so much, the least we can do to show our appreciation, is provide them, a weekend of happiness as a family. God bless our Country and our troops.



Jim "Moose" Gallagher, Sr. Vice President

In 2007, I was invited to be a part of a new Corporation, The Warrior Weekend Corporation. The Warrior Weekend Program was built to provide weekends away from the Military Hospital environment for our wounded heroes. This program was to, and does, provide the soldiers and their families an opportunity to get away and enjoy the time together. Some of these troops have just recently reunited with their families, some haven't been together in excess of a year. Just to see the love and happiness they are experiencing, the look on the kid's faces, is priceless. That's why I do this, for the troops and their family, not for me. I've seen troops that are totally withdrawn when we pick them up and watch the transformations over the weekend as they realize, there are people out there that appreciate their sacrifice. We're a small operation and that's how we want it, small and personable. We do this so we can cater to them and what they want to do on these weekends. All funds go to the Program, none of us take a paycheck, how can you if your heart is in the right place? We are just a group of Veterans, sons, daughters, spouses, and other family members that make up a selfless loving team. I owe this to those who put their lives on the line for us and our way of life. God bless America and our Troops that keep us free.



Scott Underkoffler, Vice President

I am part of this program because of my grandfather, who was a veteran. His service means a lot to me. It is my passion in helping our America Heroes. Throughout the years it has been my mission in helping wounded enlisted soldiers. Their passion for family warms my heart. Seeing soldiers smiling on a trip with their families is medicine that cannot be prescribed by a doctor. As a volunteer seeing their smiles shows me that their spirit is healing along with their wounds.



Joe Green, Vice President

I became involved with WW in 2007 after reading an article in the Widener Univ. newspaper. As a liaison for Xerox Corp's Community Involvement Program, I was always looking for a way to get involved. The WW Program just fit and XCIP was able to provide funds to the program. After the program was turned over to AL Post 28, I met with Jim Lafferty and offered to help. I acquired a Social Service leave from Xerox which enabled me to work full time for six months from May-Oct 2013. During that time, I created a database of potential donors, assisted in creating a 501(c)3, started a Super Bowl raffle, developed contacts at NFL Films, enhanced the trips to Philadelphia by securing tickets to the Phillies and Eagles, and many other initiatives that benefited the program. The WW Program has become a part of my life. It has given me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.