



WWW.OPERATIONHEALINGHEROES.ORG

WWW.TAKEAVETFISHING.ORG

Newsletter

JULY 2025

MISSION

ACCOMPLISHED

Your support has again had an impact on the lives of veterans suffering with post-traumatic stress as TAVF and OHHF were able to fund TRP treatment for five veterans and two with the Stellate Block procedure!

Thanks again for making tomorrow better than today for these heroes.



Stella

TAVF & OHHF have partnered with Agrace Hospice Care to support and honor veterans who are aging, seriously ill, dying, or grieving. Thank you, Agrace Wish Program Director Lisa Dahlgren, for making this happen! It is truly an honor to bring a bit of happiness and recognition to these amazing heroes. We recently had the opportunity to visit with a WWII Marine Corps veteran Hank Long on his 100th birthday! For more information about this wonderful organization, visit www.agrace.org.



 Agrace™

Veteran Spotlight: Amanda Wilson

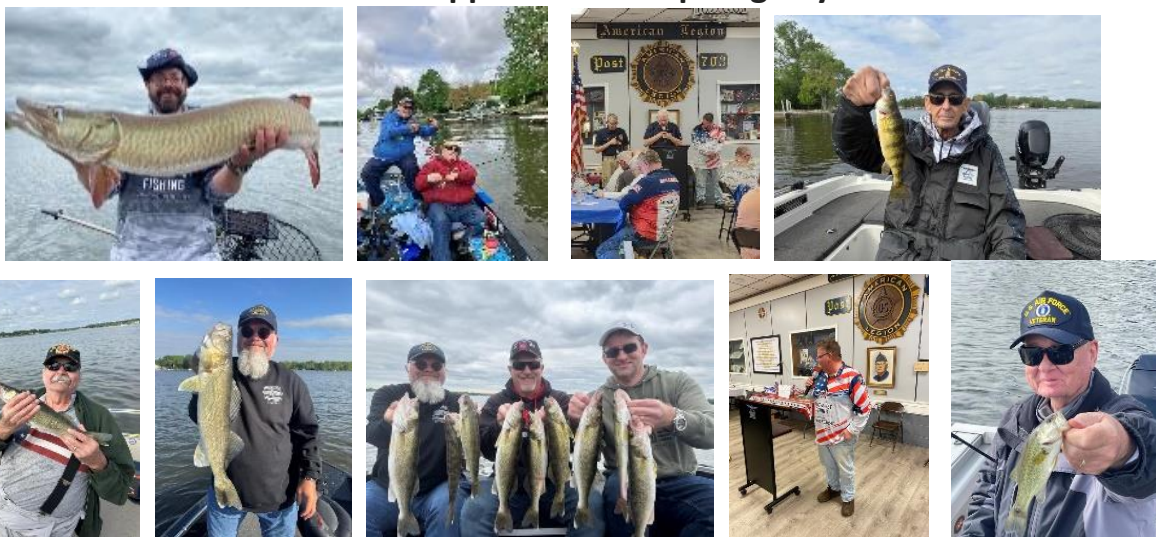
Thank you, Amanda, for your service! Amanda Wilson was born in Edgerton, WI in 1985 and graduated from Edgerton High School in 2004. After speaking with an Army recruiter at school and with a desire to prove herself, she decided to join the Army Reserves. Upon completing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO in the summer of 2004, she enrolled in and simultaneously attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering University and ROTC at Marquette University.

After college, Amanda was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Ordnance Officer Corps and moved to active duty. She completed six months of the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Amanda was then stationed at Fort Carson, CO in 2009, and was put in charge of the entire brigade's equipment movement from the railhead to the motor pool, about 3200 pieces of equipment, including Abrams Tanks and field artillery. She refers to this as one of the many leadership opportunities she had! In the summer of 2010, Amanda was deployed to Afghanistan, promoted to 1st Lieutenant, and became the Battalion Maintenance Officer in charge of all logistics vehicles, including the HET (Heavy Equipment Transporter), the largest transport vehicle. While on a mission to assume control of a 10-mile-long convoy, Amanda and her team intercepted the joint NATO-Afghan Army convoy before it inadvertently entered Kandahar, which would have been disastrous. After a year in Afghanistan, she returned to Fort Carson and was promoted to Captain. She then attended the Captain's Career Course in Fort Lee VA where she became a Logistics Officer. She then transferred in 2013 to the high desert of Fort Irwin, CA which is home to the National Training Center. She was Company CMDR for 18 months, in charge of the almost 200 Soldiers and 96 HET vehicles there. After three years at Fort Irwin, Amanda opted for Permanent Change of Station to Bethesda, MD, where she was Brigade Logistics Officer in Charge for two years for Wounded Warriors. She then moved back to Wisconsin in 2017 and transitioned to the Reserves in Madison where she was promoted to the rank of Major.

Upon her return, Amanda enrolled at Edgewood College to obtain her Master's Degree in Social Innovation & Sustainability Leadership which she completed in 2019. Due to family hardship, Amanda selflessly pursued guardianship of her niece, which was granted in 2019. After two more years in the Army Reserves, Amanda resigned her commission to focus on her niece. She also volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate in Rock County and worked full time at local manufacturing facilities, moving up the chain from Logistics Manager to Supply Chain Planner. Amanda currently works for a health supplement company in Palmyra, WI. She is a past CMDR of VFW Post 2708 in Edgerton and is the current Quartermaster. She's also the District Junior Vice CMDR. Amanda recommends that young people consider the military to "do things you never thought you could" but warns them, "don't be a jerk and think you know everything." We all should heed this advice! Thanks again Amanda for your 10 years of active and 4 years of reserve duty!



The Illinois Take A Vet Fishing Event on May 18th kicked off the upper Midwest TAVF schedule. The event again took place on the Fox Chain of Lakes and was hosted by the Fox Lake American Legion Post 703. Thanks again Post 703 for your wonderful hospitality! The 50 fishing veterans enjoyed a great day with their guides, many of whom are veterans. The honor ceremony and luncheon topped off an inspiring day!



TAVF recently took part in another veteran rod building class at the Waunakee WI American Legion! Thank you, Jeff Somers and Dan O'Kane, for making this happen! TAVF provided reels to the veterans for the rods they built and presented what TAVF is all about! Your support helps us continue helping with these therapeutic, learning, and fun classes!



Take A Vet Fishing was in Madison on June 14th! This flagship event is where it all started back in 2012. The day started off a bit on the cool side but turned into a great day where the 60 veterans that participated enjoyed some great fishing on the Madison Chain. American Legion Post 534 in McFarland again made it a welcoming day for the veterans, their families, the guides, our staff and we can't thank Post 534 enough! Mission BBQ provided an awesome meal for the veterans!



Guides and volunteers...nothing happens without them!

We would not be able to do what we do without them! These giving and dedicated people be sure everything goes well and safely for the veterans and their families at the TAVF events, and we thank each and every one of them. Please consider participating in an event as a guide or volunteer...you won't be disappointed, and we bet you'll want to do it again!

"Oh my gosh, we had a great time! What an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We will definitely do it again!" Greg R-volunteer at Madison

"...looks like I'm back in to be a guide next year. Fran called me just to thank me and he wants to fish with me next year. This made me feel great! He shared some stories, and these men and woman have sacrificed so much." Jerry H - guide at Madison

"It is hard to express how much I appreciate this event. Thank you for the continued support you show towards our veterans. This year's event was fantastic and successful, THANK YOU!" Tom S- guide at Illinois



Take A Vet Fishing was recently the recipient of a grant from New Glarus Brewing's Only In Wisconsin Giving Foundation! This generous foundation helps non-profit organizations of all kinds continue to do the good work they do. The grant that TAVF received will be used for some much-needed office and storage facility equipment! Thank you so much Jason Rufer, the entire Only In Wisconsin Giving committee, and employees of New Glarus Brewing for your generosity! See www.newglarusbrewing for more info!



The Exploits of DVD. TAVF Pro Staff Leader Dave VanDoorn is non-stop creating awareness for veterans. He once again showed off the TAVF Truck and Boat at the Wauconda Il Memorial Day Parade! This rig garners a lot of attention wherever it goes. He also recently brought some goodness to a special young children dealing or have dealt with cancer. He represented TAVF at the Steve's Anglers Program supported by McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Laurie's Children's Hospital and Cal's Angels. DVD took young David and his family fishing at this wonderful program.



Documenting the lives of our military heroes continues with Operation Healing Heroes show host Jay Garstecki and production team Keith Anderson and Javier Villareal. They recently filmed with Jon Turnbull, whose story will amaze, and TAVF's very own Eddie Jaramillo! These episodes will air in the first quarter of 2026!



The 3rd Annual Rock County Catfish Tournament took place June 8-9 and proceeds were donated to TAVF again this year! Thank you, tournament founder Derek Wells, for your hard work and dedication to helping veterans. Many Catfishers were on the prowl on the Rock River from Lake Koshkonong to the WI-IL border in search of the heaviest combined weight of three fish. Congratulations Jermaine on winning with a combined weight of over 33 lbs. with only TWO fish! Thank you to all participants for your generosity in your support for veterans! Thank you also to active-duty Army recruiter Steve Johnson and DNR Warden Austin Schumacher for your service and support! Thanks again Derek for all you do and we're looking forward to next year!



It was another great day at Camp Gratitude again this year! Take A Vet Fishing had the honor of being part of it! Camp Gratitude is a free week-long camp for veterans and their kids held at Veterans Camp Ground on beautiful Big Marine Lake near Stillwater MN. One of the days is set aside for veterans' kids to go fishing and seven TAVF guides took out some of the over 20 kids that participated! Thank you guides, Eddie Jarmillo, Tom Stygar, Jason Schmidt, Tony Stock, Gary Atkinson, Tony Stier and Tim Spier, for taking the time and sharing your expertise with these kids to give them a great day! Thank you, Camp Gratitude founder Bill Hottel, for making this happen! For more information on this wonderful organization, see www.campgratitude.org.



Great Clips Clippings. When TAVF-OHHF President and TAVF Pro Staff Leader Dave VanDoorn aren't fishing with or serving veterans, they are able to fish together in tournaments to raise awareness for veteran's needs...and maybe even catch the big one! While doing this, they proudly wear The Great Clips jerseys to support and promote this awesome company that supports veterans! Without Great Clips, TAVF would not be able to do what we do! Please support this and other businesses that support veterans!
Who's the better fisherman? The world may never know.



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Recon With Recon. Check out the Recon Boats website, www.reconboats.com, and you'll find out why we are blessed to have this top-of-the-line brand as the boats we fish and film from. The Recon Boats website lets you find out about all the models and styles they offer. You can customize a model to fit your needs, find Recon Gear, and read testimonials from Recon owners on why love their Recon Boats. Recon Boats owner John Johnson knows the importance of a solid, reliable, and loyal military and he builds his boats with this in mind. Thanks John and everyone at Recon Boats for your supporting veterans, Take A Vet Fishing and Operation Healing Heroes Foundation!



Suzuki Holeshots. Suzuki Marine USA has announced a partnership with marine retail powerhouse West Marine to bring Suzuki's leading line up of 4-stroke outboard motors to boaters coast to coast. West Marine stores coast-to-coast are now offering a range of small to mid-sized Suzuki outboards, from the "mini-might" 2.5 horsepower portable to Suzuki's Innovation Award-winning DF25 and DF30 horsepower tiller models.

WHY STOP NOW? Offer extended on Suzuki's 7-Year Factory Warranty on qualifying 150hp – 350hp pleasure outboards. *Applies to qualifying purchases of Suzuki outboard motors sold and delivered to the retail purchaser, for pleasure (non-commercial) use only, from 5/23/25, through 7/31/25.



Fastenal Focus. Did you know that Fastenal has over 100,000 vending machines in use on locations? Vending machines ensure that Fastenal customers save money and increase productivity. Industrial Vending Machines, automate, track and control MRO Inventory. Transform how you manage industrial supplies with Fastenal's industrial vending program. Smart vending solutions help companies eliminate waste, reduce costs, and maximize productivity – all while providing 24/7 access to critical supplies. Sensor Enhanced Devices, Industrial Asset Lockers, and Smart Coil Machines, are all designed for better tracking, simplification, accountability, management, security and much more.



Upcoming Events.

Allen J. Lynch Foundation 11th Annual Sporting Clays Event-July 10

Tobacco Heritage Days Car Show-Edgerton WI-July 19

TAVF-OHHF Golf Outing-Towne CC Edgerton WI-July 26

Mille Lacs MN TAVF Event-August 9

Salute to American Heroes Benefit-OCC Roadhouse Clearwater FL- Aug 17

TAVF-Al Lynch Foundation Golf Outing-Cantigny CC Wheaton IL-August 26

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