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Newsletter

MAY 2025

MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED

TAKE A VET FISHING NEWS

Once again, with your continuing and generous support, TAVF and OHHF were able to make a difference in veterans' lives. Four of our heroes were referred to Healing the Hero for TRP Therapy, two were referred for the SGB procedure, and some much-needed groceries and supplies were sent to a struggling veteran and her family.

TAVF and OHHF were able to continue to fund our partner Healing the Hero, which will help them continue the crucial work they do with TRP Therapy in the fight against post-traumatic stress. We are also fortunate to be able to help the Sparta Project with some much-needed video and promotional assistance to better create awareness for this life-changing project to help veterans adjust to life after service.

TAVF and OHHF formed a new partnership with Dr. David Tharp and his Project Healing Heroes non-profit to help even more veterans. Project Healing Heroes utilizes Resilience Formation Training (RFT) to bring relief from post-traumatic stress. See www.projecthealingheroes.org for more information. Dr. Tharp will be featured in 2026 episode of Operation Healing Heroes!



Veteran Spotlight-Dave Telvick

Thank you, Dave, for your service! Dave Telvick was born in 1964 and lived in the tiny Wisconsin town of Deansville. He went to Deerfield schools and graduated from Madison LaFollette High School in 1982. As the son of a Marine Corps veteran, and with an urge to serve, Dave decided to enlist in the US Navy three months after graduating. Being unable to travel much growing up, enlisting also satisfied his urge to see the world.

Dave completed his basic training at Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois with an MOS in aircraft electronics. He completed his electronics training at the Naval Air Station in Memphis TN and his flight school/air crew training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola FL. Later, he was transferred to Norfolk VA where he completed training for electronics and radar operation and repair, both ground and in-flight, on the E2C Hawkeye aircraft. This surveillance aircraft is similar to the AWACS. The E2C Hawkeye was designed to put fighter aircraft together with air and surface threats. He was stationed aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, a newly commissioned vessel. He and the crew of 4999 more would spend the majority of their time in the Navy aboard the Carl Vinson.

Dave spent 2 years and 3 months at sea aboard the Carl Vinson. During that time, the ship and crew traveled from Miramar CA to Alaska, Japan, the Indian Ocean, Australia and many other destinations. While on a six-week deployment with two other carrier groups in the Sea of Japan, the Russians sent a force of fighter planes into the operation to harass, which escalated tensions by ignoring the rules of engagement. It was a tense situation as US and Russian planes collided mid-air which nearly caused missiles to fly and further escalate the Cold War. The Squadron CO stated this was "the closest I ever want to get to World War III."

During another deployment and in flight, Dave used his skill as a radar operator to locate a Russian attack submarine that has US had been searching for but unable to find for several weeks. He was recognized by his commanders for this action and required to give every detail and technique that he used to improve training.

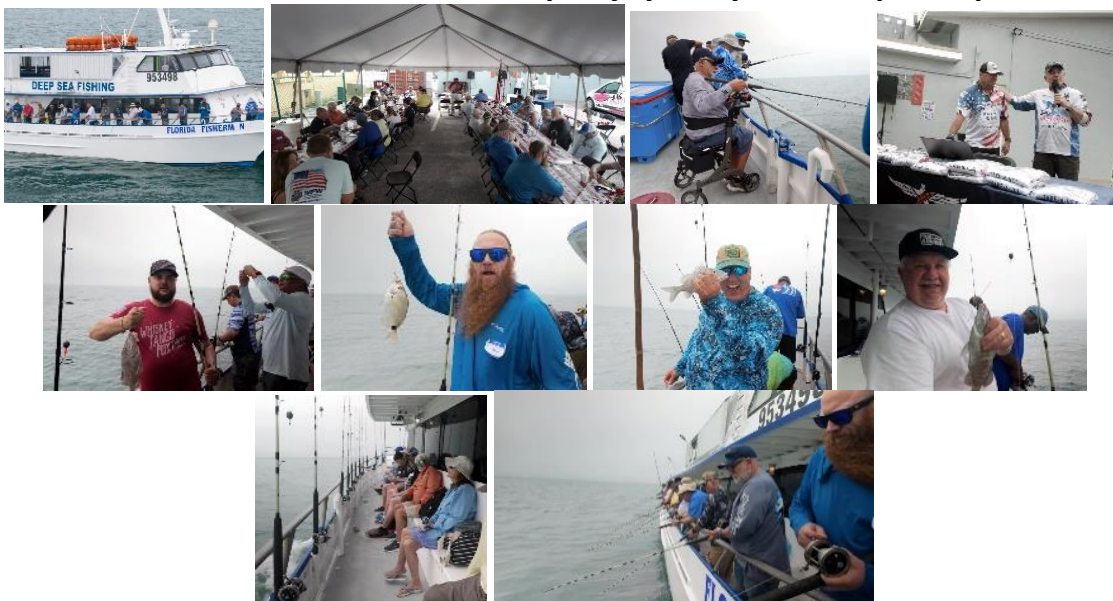
Dave was honorably discharged from the Navy in September of 1988 and went to college for a few years after but realized that this was not for him. He and his father founded Remington Electric in Madison WI. They did everything from residential wiring, road construction to street lighting and traffic light installation and repairs. In 2009, he reconnected with Lorna, now his wife, who he first met in 1994. They were married in 2013. After several years of splitting time living working in WI and CA, they decided to move permanently to California in 2014, and continue to do residential work, build garages, build water collection systems and more. Dave and Lorna reside in Santa Barbara CA with their dogs Banner and Madison.

Dave commented that the best people he ever met worked on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. You were always in harm's way, needed to be alert, and look out for everyone. He stated, "...you could always count on your buddies." He also recommends that young people do something to serve your country. Thank you again, Dave, for your service!



Take A Vet Fishing was in Madeira Beach, Florida in March!

Sixty-five veterans along with their families enjoyed a great breakfast and honor ceremony. The veterans then had an awesome day on the open sea fishing, chatting, and enjoying each other's company. Fishing often takes a back seat to the camaraderie and fellowship enjoyed by all who participate!



Seafood Festival 2025 in Madeira Beach, Florida was a huge success again this year! This local festival on John's Pass has been an invaluable resource to not only raise much needed funds for TAVF and OHHF, but of equal importance is the contacts made with veterans as well as other groups focused on helping veterans. This networking and contact-making creates an amazing amount of awareness! Thank you, Jay and Kris Garstecki, for making this happen again!



The Exploits of DVD. No moss will ever grow on the back of TAVF Pro Staff Leader Dave VanDoorn. He was again off and running as Take A Vet Fishing was invited to attend American Legion Post 0679's Annual Banquet. Dave gave a presentation on what TAVF is and how it's accomplished. He was blessed to receive a very generous donation! Thank you, American Legion Post 0679, for your service and support! He also attended, along with Fishing 4 Veterans volunteer guide Tom Stygar, the Midwest Musky Club's recent meeting. TAVF received a generous donation from this wonderful club. Thank you, Midwest Musky Club, for your support and all you do for veterans and the fishing community!



Filming for Season 10 of Operation Healing Heroes is underway! OHHF President and host Jay Garstecki, along with the production team of Keith Anderson and Javier Villareal, are off to a great start. The stories of Lucas (Air Force) and Danay (Army) LaPierre, Vietnam Army Veteran Frank Harris and Navy veteran Kristina Hoyer will be inspiring, emotional and informative. Filming these episodes can be therapeutic for the featured veterans. Veteran John Harris, Frank's brother, accompanied Frank to the filming and stated, *"...if we didn't find Frank a new place to live and be part of Operation Healing Heroes, I don't know where he would be today."*



Take A Vet Fishing partner Cedar Lake Sales in West Bend WI,

invited us to take part again in their recent Boat Show/Seminar Event! This event brought in anglers for great deals on all things marine and allowed Take A Vet Fishing to create awareness among the fishing community for what we do and how we do it as well as raise much needed funds to help us continue with our mission. Thank you, Alan Bell, Brian Bell, Tracy Ellingson, and the crew at Cedar Lake Sales for your support and hospitality.



Take A Vet Fishing was recently invited to present what we do and how we do it to a couple great groups of veterans at the Delavan WI American Legion Post 95 and a Lady Veteran Flower Making Class at the Madison Veterans Center. Hope to have some of these veterans fishing with us! Please support your local American Legion and Veteran Centers!



Great Clips Clippings. Great Clips, the Official Hair Salon of the NHL and NHLPA, today launched its 2025 Stanley Cup® Playoffs sweepstakes, which gives fans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to win a trip and tickets to a 2025 Stanley Cup Final game through the Great Clips app. Now through May 19, fans can enter the “Check-In to Win Sweepstakes” by downloading and checking in on the Great Clips app. One lucky fan and a guest will win tickets to a Stanley Cup Final game, along with airfare and hotel accommodations.



Recon With Recon. John Johnson at Recon Boats comes through for Operation Healing Heroes Foundation again by providing another top-class Recon Boat! This time it's a 18' Recon Tiller which will be powered by a Suzuki 90 HP Tiller. Thank you so much John and the crew at Recon Boats for all you do for veterans, OHHF and TAVF! Here's the transformation!



RECON
BOATS



Suzuki Holeshots. CLEAN OCEAN PROJECT. If you're going to claim to be "The Ultimate Outboard Motor," you'd better do more than just build great engines. This is why, for the past 12 years, Suzuki has been committed to cleaning up the marine environment through voluntary "Clean Up The World" activities around the globe, rallying more than 17,000* people to the cause. This has evolved into Suzuki's CLEAN OCEAN PROJECT. At the heart of this ongoing campaign is a truly innovative Micro Plastic Collecting Device designed for use on outboard motors. The first of its kind worldwide, this device allows boaters to become an important part of the solution to the global challenge of micro-plastic pollution. This is only the beginning, as Suzuki is finding ways to reduce plastic waste while educating and informing the boating industry about this critical issue. Suzuki pledges itself to the important cause of protecting our planet's waters, coastal environments and marine ecosystems for future generations to enjoy. Suzuki's Commitments: 1. Clean-Up the World Campaign. 2. Reduce Plastic Packaging. 3. Collect Marine Micro-Plastic Waste.



Fastenal Focus. Fastenal is proud to be a trusted partner of the NHL, supporting the most high-profile in-season events in hockey. From the Global Series and outdoor games like the annual Winter Classic to the Stanley Cup Finals, Fastenal is there, both on the ice and in the rink. The NHL has partnered with Fastenal to provide teams and arenas with a comprehensive range of products and services. Our supply chain solutions encompass custom manufacturing, industrial services, and compliance & sourcing, ensuring that every need is met efficiently and effectively. Community rinks hold the future. With our network of 3,200 locations, Fastenal can ensure local arenas have what they need to provide the next generation a safe, efficient place to lace up their skates.



ATTENTION COFFEE DRINKERS! Berres Brothers Coffee,

Wisconsin's premier coffee roaster, has partnered with Take A Vet Fishing to offer a great deal on all of their many, many delicious coffee flavors!! It's a win-win-win!! Want to support Take a Vet Fishing and our mission, AND get a 15% discount on your coffee? Here's how!

You will receive a 15% discount on your order, you will be supporting a veteran-owned business and Take A Vet Fishing will receive a 15% donation from the total (not including shipping or tax) of your order!! This great program only applies to online orders. Orders can be shipped to you or picked up at the bakery and store located at 202 Air Park Dr, Watertown, WI 53094. FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OF \$60 OR MORE!!

It's easy to do. Simply log on to the Berres Brothers website, www.berresbrothers.com, and apply this special code, **VETFISH**, at checkout or use this link, <https://www.berresbrothers.com/discount/VETFISH>, to go directly to the custom page and place your order for some great coffee!

Thank you, Berres Brothers Coffee and all coffee drinkers, for your support!



Check out the new additions to the TAVF and Operation Healing Heroes websites!

A new feature called “The Greatest Generation” will be a regular addition to the OHHF website. This will honor a WWII veteran, living or deceased, to honor the life and service of a veteran that kept us safe from tyranny. It can be found under the “Veteran Recognition” tab. Learn more about the lives and families of these heroes!



Another new feature in the OHHF website is the Nominate A Vet Recognition page that can also be found under the “Vet Recognition” tab. This page honors the veterans who were nominated by loved ones and friends to possibly be part of an episode or podcast of OHHF. Every veteran has a story that needs to be told. Our only wish is that all could be featured.



The TAVF-OHHF newsletters will be posted to both websites after they are sent out to our donors, sponsors and supporters. Here you’ll always have access and references if you miss an issue!

The number of veterans needing assistance is continuing to grow and our goal is to help as many as possible to reduce that number for those dealing with general anxiety disorders and post-traumatic stress to reduce the number of veteran suicides which currently stands at 22 every day. This is accomplished not only with the resources we offer but also by honoring and thanking veterans for their service with the TAVF events. **Planned Giving**, whether by recurring monthly donations, bequeathments from wills, disbursements from investments or other long-term commitments not only ensure veterans are taken care of but also ensures that the giver is always part of the good things that happen. Please contact Mark Richardson at mrichardson@takeavetfishing.org or 608-751-2351 with questions.



Upcoming Events

- Veteran Rod Building Class-Madison WI May 17
 - TAVF Event-Fox Lake Illinois May 18
 - TAVF Event-Madison WI June 14
- Camp Gratitude Veteran's Kids Fishing Day-Stillwater MN June 24

