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WWW.TAKEAVETFISHING.ORG

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED

TAKE A VET FISHING NEWS

This is what it's all about. Your generosity allowed us to refer a veteran for the SGB procedure, fund another veteran for a Sparta Project Cohort, and provide PTS treatment for a Gold Star Mom and her family! It has also allowed us to continue to honor and assist military veterans at the Take A Vet Fishing events. These events are a therapy in and among themselves as veterans look forward to the events and allow them to be among others with similar experiences and know they are with people who care.



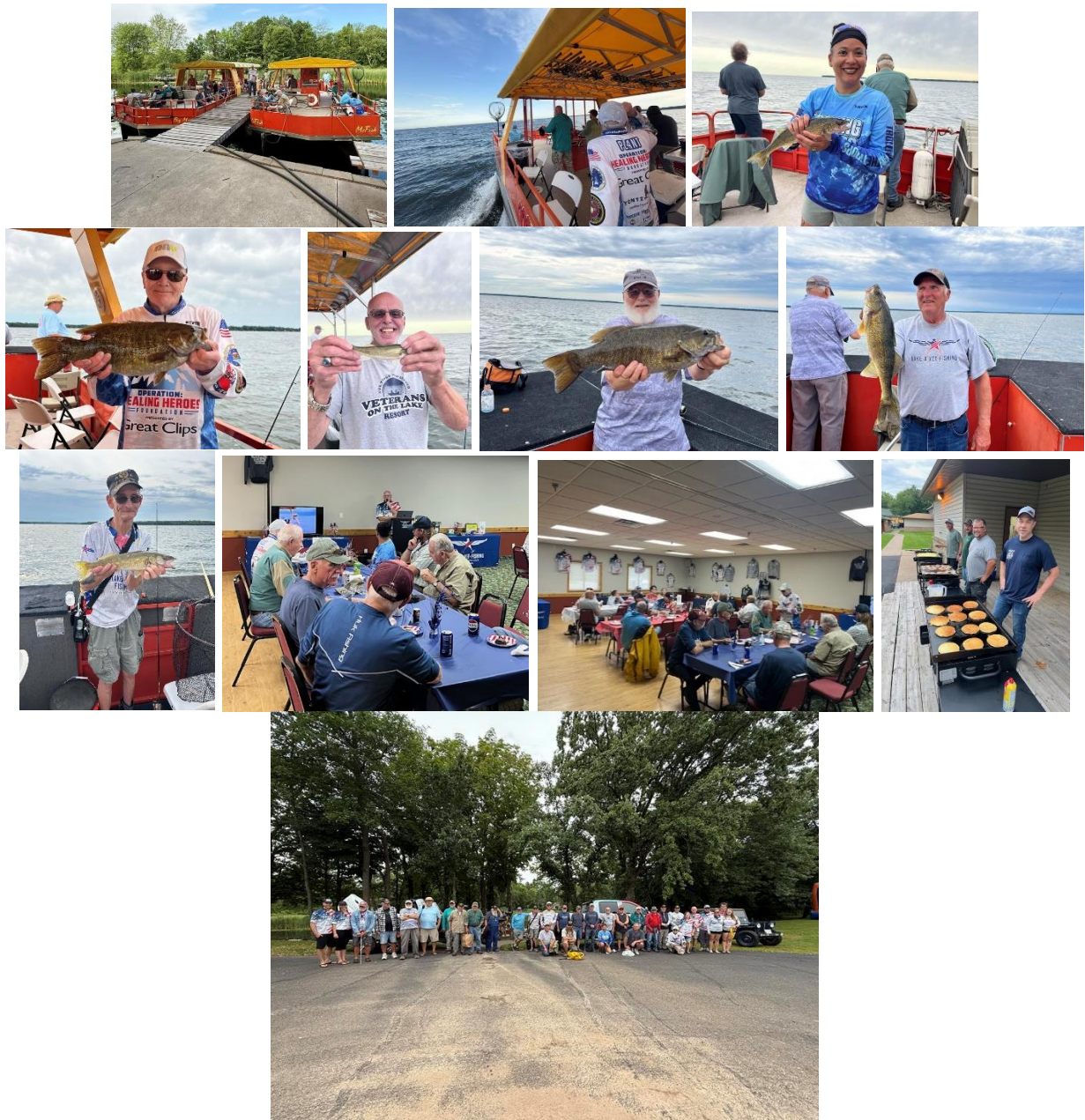
TAVF and OHHF had the honor of assisting Agrace Hospice with organizing the Dream Flight for two WWII heroes, Lew Harned and Hank Long! It was wonderful to be able to represent TAVF and OHHF at this amazing and emotional event held at the Middleton Municipal Airport in Middleton, WI. Dream Flight is a non-profit that honors WWII veterans with a flight in this WWII-era Stearman Biplane! See www.dreamflights.org for more information.

Thank you, Lisa Dahlgren of Agrace, for making this happen and for allowing all who helped to be a part of it! It is with a heavy heart to report the unexpected passing of Hank Long. All of us at TAVF and OHHF are saddened by the loss of this true hero from the Greatest Generation.

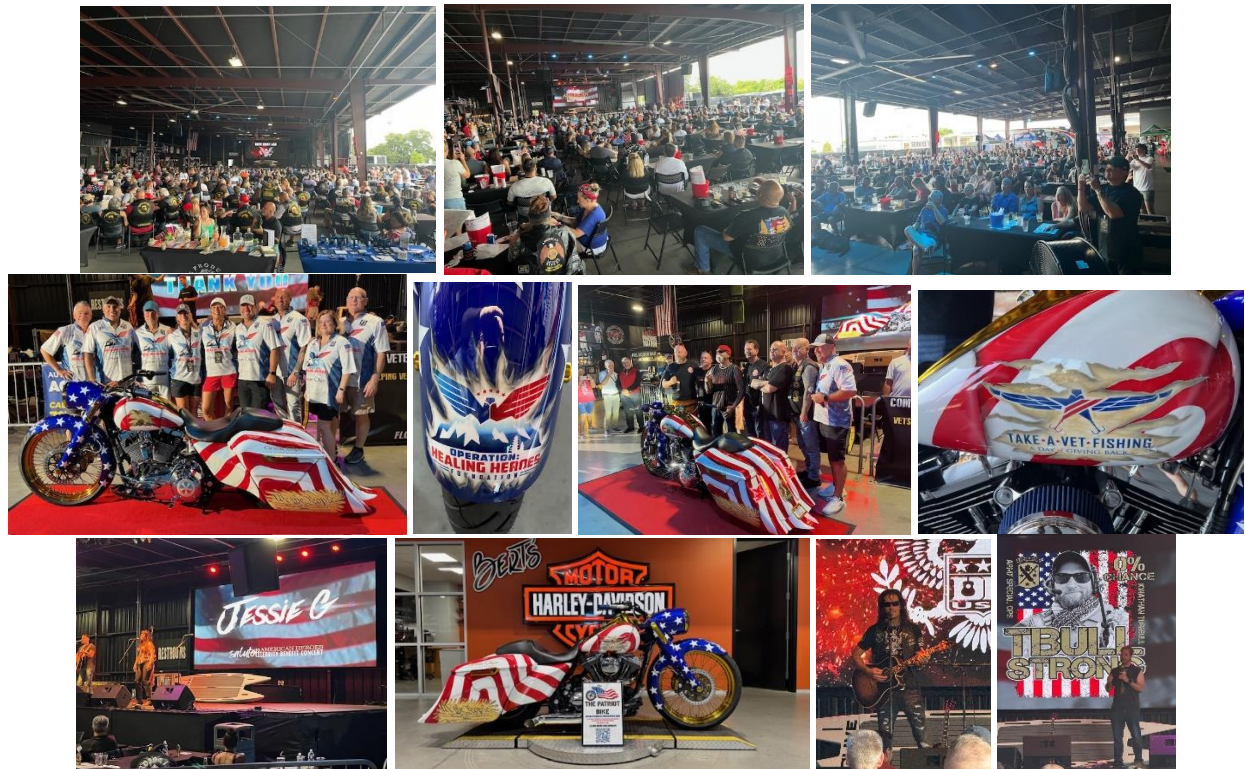
RIP and thank you, Hank.



TAVF was on Mille Lacs Lake near Isle MN for our annual event there! Twenty-five veterans along with their families enjoyed a great day fishing and spending time together! The day started off again with a delicious pancake breakfast cooked and served by the Isle MN Fire and Rescue Dept. After fishing, another excellent BBQ lunch with all the fixins was provided by the Paulsen Family from Smokin' Mortars BBQ! Whenever you're in the Isle MN area, make it a point to stop in for some great BBQ and friendly service! Thank you to McQuoid's Inn near Isle for hosting again this year!



The 2nd Annual Salute to American Heroes Event was held at the OCC Roadhouse on Aug 17th in Clearwater Florida! This concert and fundraiser was highlighted by the long-awaited reveal of the Operation Healing Heroes bike built by Paul Sr and the crew at Orange County Choppers! Dubbed the **Patriot Bike**, it was nothing short of spectacular and defines what our military heroes mean to us. Much more to come on the bike so stay tuned! Great music was provided by Nashville recording artist Jessie G and Dave Bray USA. The huge and generous crowd was inspired by several speakers including hero and author Major Jon Turnbull (Tunnels to Towers) and Bryan Stern of Grey Bull Rescue. Thank you Renee Wagner of The Mag Lifestyle, Paul Sr & Jim Kerr of OCC Roadhouse, John Cleckner of Live Watersports and everyone who helped make this another awesome event!



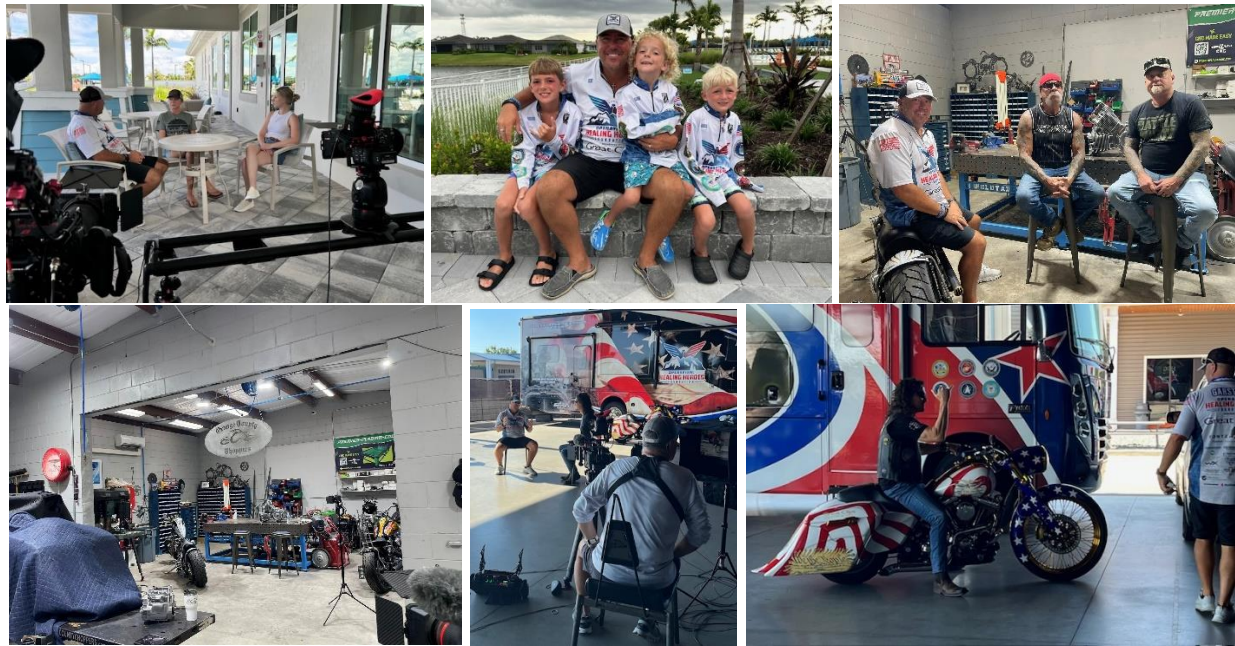
Fishing 4 Veterans guides Jason & Tara Schmidt began a program to honor and thank veterans with a relaxing 2-day fishing trip and fun activities on Lake Mille Lacs! The Schmidts treated three veterans in this inaugural year for their program! Veterans Domingo Martinez, Norman Lee and Troy Risdal each had one-on-one trips guided by Jason and Tara. Special thanks to Brian at Red Door Resort in Aitkin MN, Anna at Speedway in New Prague MN, and Sue at Sue's Baits in Malmo MN for your generous donations. Thank you Jason and Tara for making this wonderful experience happen for veterans!



The Exploits of DVD. TAVF Pro Staff Leader Dave Van Doorn was on the road again taking veterans fishing and representing TAVF and OHMF at the Concert In The Corn Event in Mason WI near Ashland! Tens of thousands of country music fans come to this 4-day event. Big name artists like Big and Rich, Tracy Lawrence, Clint Black and many others performed to the sell-out crowds. DVD was able to put the TAVF truck boat front and center to the stage which created a tremendous amount to awareness to the needs of veterans.



The OHHF film crew Keith Anderson and Javier Villarreal along with host Jay Garstecki have been busy documenting the lives of our military heroes and families. They filmed with Gold Star Mom Allie Dwyer and her family who lost her husband in a helicopter crash, filmed episode 2 with Dave Allen and Paul Teutel Sr of Orange County Choppers, and musician Dave Bray, a Navy and Marine Corps veteran who is the Rock N Roll Patriot of Dave Bray USA! These episodes will add to the awesome lineup coming this January. They'll be emotional, exciting and informative.



Take A Vet Fishing had the honor of speaking to the membership of the American Legion West Field Post 48 in Beloit WI. What a great group! We discussed what we do and how we help veterans and received a very generous unexpected donation! Thank you Post 48 for your service and generosity! Support your local Legion!



Fore! The 2025 Golf Outings were a huge success! **The Take A Vet Fishing-Operation Healing Heroes Golf Outing** kicked things off in July at **Towne Country Club in Edgerton WI**. The rain early didn't dampen the spirits of all who came out to support our veterans. **The Driving For Freedom Golf Outing** took place at **Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton IL in August**. It was a picture perfect day! The generosity of the golfing community is nothing short of amazing! Thank you to all golfers, donors, volunteers and sponsors!



Thank you McDonald Plastic Molding in Monroe WI for your generous donation in support of veterans! McDonald Plastic Molding held a fundraiser for TAVF at their company picnic! Special thank you to Sarah Wilke of MPM for making this happen! MPM takes plastic molded services to another level by offering secondary operations such as light assembly, pad printing, sonic welding, spin welding, hot stamping, and kitting. See www.mcdonaldplasticmolding.com for more information.



The Tobacco Heritage Days Car Show in Edgerton WI was a bit rainy in the morning, but that didn't stop many from displaying some great looking classic cars and from supporting veterans! TAVF-OHHF set up a booth again and had the chance to speak to show goers about why veterans need help and how they can help us. Thank you Car Show Committee for running a top-knotch event and to all the generous donors!



Bent Rods Bass Club in northern Illinois gave back to veterans by hosting a fishing tournament on Browns Lake near Burlington WI. TAVF received a generous donation from the fundraising efforts of the club. Thank you, tournament organizer Kris Mabrito and the club membership, for letting us be part of it and for your support!



Bent Rod Bass Club

BINGO!! OHHF-TAVF team member Jay & Kris Garstecki organized and held the first Bingo Event at their Beachwalk community near Engelwood Florida! It was a capacity crowd! Bingo will be held twice a month at the Hightide Bar & Grille. Residents of the Beachwalk community have been extremely gracious and generous in support of veterans, TAVF, and OHHF. Proceeds of the event will help us continue to take care of our veterans and we were able to make a donation to the Beachwalk Veterans Club as well! Thanks Jay and Kris for making this happen and to all of Beachwalk!



Great Clips Clippings. Great Clip recently celebrated Franchise Appreciation Day in honor of their hundreds of franchise owners! Not only does Great Clips support TAVF and OHHF, these franchises have given **2.4 million free haircuts on Veterans Day since 2012!** For over 40 years, Great Clips has maintained a successful history of continuous growth. Today more than 700 franchisees proudly own and operate multiple salon locations, solidifying its position as the largest hair salon brand in the world. Thank you Great Clips and all its franchise owners for your continued support!



Recon With Recon. TAVF and OHF partner Recon Boats is also a proud sponsor of the Professional Musky Tournament Trail (PMTT). The Professional Musky Tournament Trail events are the most high profile, exciting, educational and entertaining musky tournaments in the country. The PMTT's high energy format has been developed not only with the Pro's in mind, but also the dozens and dozens of other excellent musky anglers who may have the desire and ability to become Pro's or just enjoy a little competition and want to have a good time. Success in the PMTT can take you down many roads, no matter what your skill level. Come join the PMTT and have fun. See www.promusky.com for more information.



Suzuki Holeshots. Now through SEPTEMBER 30th, 2025, Suzuki Marine is offering MVL REBATES on any qualifying 2.5hp-350hp engines up to \$500*. There is no better time to purchase the ULTIMATE outboard for your new boat package or to repower your current boat. Contact your authorized Suzuki Marine dealer for additional information.

*Promotional rebate period ends 9/30/2025.



Fastenal Focus. Simplify your supply chain with Fastenal's **FASTStock Local Inventory Management**. When Fastenal talks to businesses about inventory, they hear some common themes. They want less of it on hand, fewer touches, and a lower total cost of ownership. Through their **FASTStock** program, they'll craft a custom inventory management solution to help your organization achieve all of the above. Increasingly, they're also looking for greater visibility and less risk in the supply chain. This is a great way to decrease spending, reduce freight expenses, improve working capital, and increase productivity. See www.fastenal.com for more information.



Upcoming Events

Lake Minnetonka MN TAVF Event Sept 13

Boyne City MI TAVF Event Sept 20

Eagle River WI TAVF Event Oct 11

Red, White & Brew-Toast 2 Our Troops Engelwood FL Nov 8

Eby Family Dental Veteran Event Ft Atkinson WI Nov 14

