

An American flag is draped across the top left corner of the image, showing the stars and stripes. The rest of the background is a solid dark blue.

VETERANS
Inc.

Gala Military Ball

19 OCTOBER 2024

THE HISTORIC ARMORY
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

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WE MUST BE THERE NOW THAT THEY NEED US.



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A MESSAGE FROM VETERANS INC.



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to welcome you “back home” for this year’s 2024 Gala Military Ball, returning to the historic Veterans Inc. Armory!

The biennial Gala Military Ball, our premier event, allows us to honor our veterans and those who have taken extraordinary measures to support us in our work. Without them - and without you - we would be unable to fulfill our mission of caring for thousands of veterans and their families every year.

Tonight, we gather to remember, celebrate, and express our heartfelt appreciation for the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you and want you to know that your support of this event is not only evidence of your patriotism, but also a true testament of your appreciation for our way of life and the people who fought to defend it.

We take pride in celebrating the recent accomplishments our agency has achieved as part of our continued dedication to serving veterans and their families in times of need. Among these are the expansion of behavioral health services at our Armory location in Worcester and at Independence Hall, our cutting-edge substance addiction treatment facility. Here, in response to the opiate crisis, we offer evidence-based, compassionate, innovative, and trauma-informed care within a holistic wellness environment.

We were particularly proud to be awarded the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for establishing the Veteran Assertive Outreach and Engagement program. This program offers services for screening suicide risk and providing suicide prevention services.

In addition, as part of our ongoing service-delivery effort to under served populations, we have enhanced our programs for female veterans and expanded our outreach to marginalized populations in Montana, North Dakota, and all six New England States.

For the past 30 years, the enormity of the challenges we have faced and the magnitude of the solutions we have provided is an incredible testament to you, our volunteers, our staff, and our Board of Directors because, to date, we’ve successfully cared for more than 100,000 veterans and their families.

Words alone cannot convey the deep gratitude and humility we feel about your generosity and kindness toward our veterans, and we ask that you please accept our sincere thanks and deepest appreciation. Although there is still much to be done, please be assured that together, we will not falter; we will not fail.



Vincent J. Perrone,
Lt. Colonel, USAF (Retired)
President & CEO



Denis M. Leary, MSW
Executive Director





TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from Veterans Inc.	3
The Evening's Events and The Pledge of Allegiance	5
Vincent J. Perrone, Lt. Colonel, USAF (Retired), President & CEO	6
Denis Leary, MSW, Executive Director	7
Veterans Inc. Board Members, Executive Leadership, & Directors	8-11
Gala Military Ball Committee Members & Advisory Council	12
A Special Thanks Sponsors	13
A Special Thanks Contributors, Lt. Col. Enoch Woodhouse	14
Master of Ceremonies	15
A Special Thanks Performers	16-17
Stars & Stripes Tribute	18-19
About Veterans Inc.	20-24
About Independence Hall	25
About the Minuteman Awards	26
Minuteman Awardee Bio	27
Saluting the Past	28-29
Semper Fidelis – A Short History of the United States Marine Corps	30-31
History of the Gala Military Ball	32
Veteran Success Stories	33
Event Highlights & Upcoming Events	34-35
Supporters (Advertisers)	36-74
Advertisements Index	72

THE EVENING'S EVENTS



1700 (5:00 PM) Arrive for Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres, catered by Peppers Artful Events

1830 (6:30 PM) Cocktail Reception ends
Guests take their seats

Presentation of the Colors
Pledge of Allegiance & National Anthem
Posting of the Colors
MIA/POW Ceremony – Guests please be seated
Invocation
Presentation of Minuteman Award
Dinner is served, catered by Peppers Artful Events
Entertainment: Victory Belles, and Dan Gabel and the Abletones



**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS ONE NATION
UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

An oath of loyalty to the United States national emblem and to the nation it symbolizes. When reciting the pledge of allegiance, civilians should stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Men should remove their hats.

Armed services personnel in uniform face the flag and give the military salute.



VINCENT J. PERRONE, LT. COLONEL, USAF (RETIRED)

President & CEO, Veterans Inc.



Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, Lieutenant Colonel Vincent John Perrone, Jr. is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the nation and the birthplace of ROTC, where he was commissioned in the United States Air Force. Colonel Perrone's twenty-year military career included a number of challenging positions. A pilot candidate, he was permanently grounded due to an injury. He served as Executive Officer, responsible for the security and protection of over 200 nuclear missiles and 800 personnel at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. In his next assignment, he was Chief of Officer Recruiting at Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts managing recruitment from Maine to West Virginia.

Colonel Perrone took on a new challenge as part of the acquisition community at the Electronic Systems Division at Hanscom AFB, to assist in the development of the \$3.2 billion World Wide Military Command and Control Information Systems (WIS) program. Air Force Systems Command Headquarters selected Colonel Perrone as Chief of the Program Integration Division, to manage the acquisition logistics components for over 375 programs. He then gained international experience by assuming the position of Director of Resource Management and Deputy Base Commander at Suwon Air Force Base in Korea, where he led four divisions. He was later assigned to Headquarters USAF, the Pentagon, and Washington DC as Program Manager for Developmental Aircraft Support Equipment and spent much

of his time on Capitol Hill defending program budgets to Congress. During this time, he also served on the Joint Staff in the Operational Command Center for Desert Storm.

Vin returned to Hanscom AFB as the Chief of Requirements Analysis and Engineering Division in the International Programs Office. He served as the gateway to the world in the sales of security assistance systems to our Allies and helped to establish the Presidential Partnership for Peace Initiative with Eastern Europe. He was promoted to Deputy Director of the Joint Tactical Information Distribution System, a classified communications system, and later became a Program Manager for the world's premier surveillance aircraft, the 767AWACS.

Over 30 years ago he became involved in a grassroots effort to care for homeless veterans. Vin was subsequently named Chairman, President & CEO of the 501(c)3 charitable organization (renamed Veterans Inc.) that has since helped more than 100,000 veterans and their families in need. Under Colonel Perrone's leadership, Veterans Inc. has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, as well as an international accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and has grown to become the largest supportive services agency for veterans and their families. The agency offers programs in eight states to include all six New England states, as well as Montana and North Dakota, and a national hotline referral service.

Colonel Perrone has a Master of Science Degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and holds Level III certification from the Department of Defense in Program Management and Acquisition Logistics disciplines. His major awards and decorations include; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, with four oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal, with one oak leaf cluster; the National Defense Medal; the Korean Defense Service Medal; and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He is the recipient of

the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network's Leadership Award, the Award of Merit from the Armed Forces Committee of Worcester County, was honored as a "Hero Among Us" in 2016 by the Lowell Spinners, and in 2017 was once again recognized by the Spinners by being featured in their annual Military Hero Commemorative Card Set. He accepted the Seal of Distinction award from the prestigious foundation the Call of Duty Endowment which is supported by Activision Blizzard.

Over the years, Colonel Perrone has volunteered his time and resources to many community services and programs such as working with the elderly, church groups, and Native American and Amer-Asian children's orphanages. He served on Senator Ted Kennedy's task force for returning veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq and sat on Governor Deval Patrick's Commission to End Homelessness. He is past Chair of the Berlin-Boylston Tahanto Regional School Committee. He served as a member of the Worcester Veterans Council, the Air Force Association, the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association, the Society of Logistics Engineers, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Colonel Perrone currently sits on the Board of Directors for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) and the District Attorney's Central Massachusetts Opioid Task Force. He is the Veterans' Agent for the Town of Boylston. He is a member of the historic Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company and the Armed Forces Committee of Worcester County and sits on the Executive Committee for the Board of Directors of the Korean War Memorial of Central Mass. In 2023 he received the NCHV Meritorious Service Award.

Following his retirement from the United States Air Force and before taking his current position at Veterans Inc., Colonel Perrone was Director of Global Government Marketing for EMC Corporation, a Fortune 500 company. Colonel Perrone and his wife, Debra, have four children, Francesca, Vincent III, Samuel, and Ricky, son-in-law John, and daughter-in-law Lynn and four grandchildren.

DENIS LEARY, MSW

Executive Director, Veterans Inc.



Denis Leary, Executive Director of Veterans Inc., is the son of working-class, first-generation Irish immigrants, from whom he learned the core values of kindness, compassion, and equality. These values were first put into action when, as a new graduate, he became a social worker at Worcester City Hospital, helping the poor and disenfranchised, and later as an advocate for foster children displaced by parental abuse and neglect. He then played a crucial role in creating Community Healthlink, a UMass Memorial affiliate providing community-based care.

For the past 24 years as our Executive Director, Denis has been the guiding force behind our programs and behavioral healthcare services throughout New England. Known for his wit and wisdom, as well as his competence and creativity, his clinical direction has sparked rapid growth in the size and scope of our service delivery system, including expanding our programming into Montana and North Dakota. Overall, his leadership has made a critical difference in the lives of more than 100,000 veterans and their families. As a leader on the national, state, and local level, Denis was awarded the 2017

George Washington Medal of Honor by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for “deeds that reflect the best of the American spirit.” Denis is also the first recipient of the Visions 2000 Award for Community Service, for which the Telegram & Gazette Editorial Board described him as someone who “shows us all how good we can be.” A health and exercise enthusiast, he was named the “Fittest CEO” by the Worcester Business Journal.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington, D.C. based National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), Denis became a respected and dynamic voice advocating on Capitol Hill for veteran issues, and at the NCHV Annual Convention, he received the 2023 Partnership Award. At the state level, he served six years as a Massachusetts Public Health Council member under Governor Deval Patrick and Governor Charlie Baker. His colleagues at other community organizations have consistently recognized Denis for his knowledge and insight and twice elected him President of the Central Massachusetts Substance Abuse Association. He also served on District Attorney Joseph Early’s Opioid Task Force. One of his most notable achievements to date was spearheading our aggressive response to the opiate epidemic by creating Independence Hall in 2018, the first licensed substance addiction and dual-diagnosis treatment center in the country operated by a veteran-specific, non-profit organization.

In 2021, Denis established the Recovery Summit. This annual educational conference provides academic training and informative lectures by experts in the field of addiction treatment to foster the growth of rising professionals and promote innovative, evidence-based treatments,

including the benefits of art and music. This year’s conference, titled “The 2024 Recovery Summit: Art, Aria, and Architecture”, was a significant success that showcased major performance artists and renowned speakers who presented the latest research on the positive impact of art on health recovery.

A graduate of North High School in Worcester, Denis attended Quinsigamond Community College, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors from Stonehill College, and completed his graduate training at Boston College, where he was awarded a Master of Social Work degree. Denis treasures his large extended family, but above all else, he is the proud father of two daughters, Danielle and Kelly, and his grandson, Declan McCarthy, born in 2024 to Danielle and her husband, Colin McCarthy (USMC). Danielle is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a Veteran of the U.S. Navy, where she completed a five-year tour of duty, earning the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal while serving as a flight surgeon during combat deployment for Carrier Air Wing 17 aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt. She is now a physician in Internal Medicine at the UMass Memorial Hospital – University Campus. Kelly is a Dean’s List graduate of the prestigious Eisenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and resided for several years in San Diego, California, working at the corporate headquarters of GoFundMe, and recently re-located to Massachusetts after a GoFundMe promotion to Strategy Analyst for the Customer Operations Team. The GoFundMe platform has raised over \$25 billion for worldwide philanthropy. On a volunteer level, Kelly continues to be a community activist for charitable causes.



VETERANS INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS



GEORGE BOURISK
Treasurer

George grew up in Worcester, where he attended the public school system and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in Natural Science from Assumption College. In 2023, he retired after 44-years-experience working for FM Global and held the title Engineering Specialist. His expertise included risk management to several large industrial accounts protecting against perils that can affect their business. Over the years, he operated in several capacities that included supervision, training, and lead engineer for the company's Boston office. His specialties included dust explosion calculations and mitigation.



**ROLAND BERCUME,
M.S., R.PH.**
Secretary

Roland Bercume, M.S., R.Ph., retired in 2019 from UMass Memorial Health Care. At the time of his retirement, Roland served as the Senior Director of Pharmacy for the Medical Center. There, he oversaw the provision of pharmaceutical services to all areas of the Medical Center including the University, Memorial, and Hahnemann Campuses as well as the Marlboro Hospital Oncology Clinic. He was responsible for managing over 200 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and supportive staff. Mr. Bercume is a Registered Pharmacist and also holds a Master's Degree in Pharmacy Therapeutics. At the time of his retirement he had 40 years of experience in Pharmacy Management. Mr. Bercume currently works as a Pharmacy Consultant.



PATRICK J. MURPHY
*Captain, USMC
(Veteran) Chair,
Personnel Committee*

Patrick Murphy is a retired IT & HR Solutions, Services & Consulting Executive for Biotech, pharmaceutical, Health Tech and FinTech. He is a former Marine who served in Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Patrick, his wife Paula, daughter Sara, and son John reside on the South Shore.



**STANLEY MICHAEL
JONUTIS.**
*Lt. Colonel, USAF
(Retired)*

Stanley Michael Jonutis Lt. Col, USAF (retired) is a Civil Engineer with over 40 years of experience and a Masters of Systems Engineering from Western New England University/ Springfield, MA. Prior to retiring as Traffic & Safety Engineer with Montana's Department of Transportation in Billings, MT., he served as an Air Force Academy Liaison Officer in the USAF Reserve for Civil Engineering, A Chief Engineer at Woomera Air Force Station in Woomera, Australia, and a Missile Launch Officer at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Cascade County, Montana. He also served as engineering liaison officer to the Royal Saudi Air Force (1981-82). Lt Col Jonutis graduated from Montana State University (1974), Bozeman, MT.

VETERANS INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RALPH D. SABATINO,
PH.D, BIOCHEMISTRY
Board Member

After over 30 years experience in the pharmaceutical, diagnostic and life science industries Dr Ralph Sabatino retired in 2019. He graduated from Norwich University and continued his education at Boston University obtaining a Ph.D. in Biochemistry followed by a fellowship at the University of Rochester, NY. Dr. Sabatino has been employed at many companies from start-ups to large multi-billion dollar entities. He earned his construction supervisors license and built houses on a part time basis collaborating with Vin Perrone President and CEO of Veterans Inc. Dr. Sabatino was also very active in the Boy Scouts of America as an Assistant Scout Master for over 20 years. And was active as a Board of Fellows at Norwich University for several years to guide and mentor students in their potential careers.



EDWARD D. BURKART,
JR.
Lt. Colonel, USAF
(Retired), Board Member

Lt. Colonel Edward D. Burkart, Jr. is currently employed by the State of Vermont, Office of Veterans Affairs as the Veterans Services Coordinator. Prior to that position, he worked for the Vermont Department of Taxes as a Tax Examiner III. Lt. Col. Burkart retired from the US Air Force with twenty-three years of active military service. Lt. Col Burkart is a graduate of Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont where he earned a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Business Administration and an Associate of Science (AS) Degree in Criminal Justice. He also holds two master's degrees; a Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree from the University of North Dakota, and a Master of Arts (MA) Degree from Webster University in St Louis, MO. Lt. Col. Burkart served in Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He is married to his lovely wife Sally and they have three sons: Nicholas, Gabriel, and Matthew.



VICTORIA VITUCCI
Lt. Colonel, USAF
(Retired), Board Member

Victoria Vitucci is the President and Chief Executive Officer for Vantage Applications, a private engineering services company located in Concord, MA. She is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and served as a Program Manager for weapon system development while on active duty. She is a Level III certified Program Manager, and she obtained a Bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Master's degree from the University of Dayton, both in mechanical engineering. In addition to Veterans Inc., Victoria is a member of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, and volunteers with Minuteman Services and Meals on Wheels. Victoria is also an avid runner and enjoys gardening and other outdoor activities.



VETERANS INC. EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



ALLISON A. ALAIMO

*Senior Vice President of
Finance, Development,
and Administration*

Allison Alaimo has been with Veterans Inc. since 2002. During her tenure, the agency's annual operating budget has increased from \$750,000 to \$28 million, with assets of over \$27 million. She has helped raise millions of dollars for both capital and new program funding that have resulted in both geographical expansion as well as specifically bringing more services to veterans and their families. She received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Worcester State University and has a background in sales and marketing. Her passion and commitment have earned her a number of accolades over the years: "Salute to Excellence in Administration and Finance" Award from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare in 2023; "Outstanding Worcester Young Alumna" in 2014, Worcester State University; "Twelve Who Made a Difference in Central Mass." in 2012, Go Local Worcester; "40 Under Forty" in 2008, Worcester Business Journal; "28 to Watch in 2008," Pulse Magazine; "Unsung Heroine Award" for Worcester from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women in 2007. Allison is active in the community and was a former Vice-Chair of the Worcester Citizens Advisory Council, Vice President of the Greater Worcester Women in Development, Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Canal District Alliance in Worcester, Member of the Massachusetts Women's Veterans Network Steering Committee, and a Founding Member and past-Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the Young Professional Women's Association. Allison and her husband Timothy Loew have two children together, Alexander and Sofia.



AMANDA RIIK HERRON

*Assistant Vice President of
Administration and Employee
Relations*

Amanda Riik Herron has been with Veterans Inc. since 2005. She received a Bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Worcester State University and has a background in public speaking, networking, media, marketing campaigns, event planning, donor relations, project management, human resources, and employee relations. Her passion and commitment have earned her many accolades over the years: in 2011 as one of 40 Under Forty from the Worcester Business Journal, 14 to Watch in 2014 from the Pulse Magazine, and Employee of the Year in 2009 from Veterans Inc. Amanda is actively involved in the community and served as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Canal District Alliance, Inc., Board Member of the Worcester State University Alumni Association and Korean War Memorial, Founding Member and Secretary of the Young Professional Women's Association of Worcester, Secretary of the Worcester Arts Council, Vice President of Women in Development, Secretary of the Department of Transitional Assistance Worcester Advisory and currently resides on the RSVP Worcester Board. In addition, photography has been a lifelong passion, and she has received first-place ribbons for her work. Amanda and her husband, Matthew, have a daughter, Samantha, and a German Shepherd named Sarge.

VETERANS INC. DIRECTORS



AJ MERCIER

*Director of Operations
and Special Projects*

AJ Mercier is a dedicated professional and a passionate leader with a distinguished background in both military service and academia. A former United States Marine Corps Sergeant, AJ served from 1995 to 2000. He holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems, a master's degree in Computer Science, and an MBA. AJ is also a certified Project Management Professional and an active member of the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Project Management Institute. For the past two years, AJ has been the Director of Operations and Special Projects at Veterans Inc., where he is committed to supporting this organization which helps all veterans in their time of need.



KATHERINE HORRAN

Director of Client Services

Katherine (Person) Horan is the Director of Client Services, and has been with Veterans Inc. since 2013. She started as a case manager and worked her way up to Director of Client Services, where she plays an integral role in ensuring the success of Veterans Inc.'s programs across 8 states, as well as supervising Veterans Inc.'s attainment of CARF certification in 2018 and 2021. Katherine earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health from UMass Amherst, and a Master's of Business Administration in Management from Fitchburg State University. Her awards include the Worcester Business Journals 40 Under 40 award (2020), and Veterans Inc.'s Recognition of Excellence (2024) for leadership in the very successful SSVF Program, Above and Beyond Award for Leadership and Outstanding Service (2019) and Junior Executive Leadership (2014). She also serves as the Veteran Subcommittee Chair for the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care, and a member of the City of Worcester's Housing First Coordinating Council, a Member of the Young Professional Women's Association, and is a founding member and former co-chair of the Western MA Veterans Outreach Into Community Engagement (VOICE) organization.



GALA MILITARY EVENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024

On behalf of Veterans Inc. sincere thanks to the members of the 2024 committee for their support in organizing our Gala Military Ball at the Historic Armory. We appreciate your dedication to our Veterans and assisting us with our mission.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Community

Caitlyn Correa
Mark DiFraia
Jason Geshelin
Paul Kelly
Susan Lawrence
Debra Mark
Jamie Thurber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Staff

Dan Alaimo
Tiffany Bailey
Amanda Bennett
Raymond Carville
Amanda Clewes
Ryan Fitzpatrick
Jose Hemingway
Marleen Kilcoyne
William LeClair
AJ Mercier
Morgan Paquette
Samuel Perrone
Jay Ricciardi

VOLUNTEERS Community

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Michele Hamilton
Paul Hamilton
Jeremy Horan
Suzanne Uncapher
Virginia Murphy
Jason Palitsch

VOLUNTEERS Staff

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Arlanna Colonies
Katelin Cornetta
Charlene Cutroni
Nancy Franzen
Holly Fricault
Barbara Jo Harrold
Katherine Horan
Michael Morel
Mai-Hong Nguyen
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Captain, USA – JAG (Veteran)

CONSTANCE MORRISON

Captain, Nurse; US Army

RALPH K. STONE, ESQ.

Ralph Stone Law LLC.

A SPECIAL THANKS



We extend our sincere gratitude to the following businesses and individuals for their generous contributions to our Gala Military Ball.

MAJOR SPONSORS:



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A SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our sincere gratitude to the following businesses and individuals for their generous contributions to our Gala Military Ball.

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Thank You for joining us this evening!

LT. COL. ENOCH “WOODY” WOODHOUSE

332nd Fighter Group, 15th Air Force

Enoch “Woody” Woodhouse was born on January 14, 1927 in Roxbury, MA.

On his 17th birthday, he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps. While on the train headed for boot camp, Woody and his fellow soldiers were told the train was for ‘Whites Only’. The train he was allowed to ride on arrived six hours later, causing him to show up late for his assignment, much to the chagrin of his white drill sergeant.

Woody was transferred to Ogden, UT, where he was assigned to Squadron F, an all-Black squadron, primarily in charge of housekeeping, upkeep of the roads and peeling potatoes for the unit. Woody was assigned to the more coveted jobs as a waiter in the Officer’s Club. Woody, who spoke several languages, always kept his favorite book close by while cleaning the Officer’s Club. One evening, a lieutenant spotted the book and told him to apply for Officer Candidate School.

Commissioned a 2nd Lt. at 19, Woody was assigned F Co. to the 332nd Fighter Group, better known as the Tuskegee Airmen, where he became paymaster/finance officer for the squadron. He never went overseas for his duties but stayed in the United States.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



MARK OCKERBLOOM
Boston 25 News Anchor

Mark Ockerbloom is a 4-time Emmy-Award winning anchor for Boston 25 News. He co-anchors Boston 25 News at 5:00, 6:00, 10:00 and 11:00. He's been with WFXT since 2004 and is one of the Boston area's most respected journalists.

Mark is a native of Winchester, Massachusetts. Growing up in a newspaper family, Mark has always been intrigued by current events. He knows firsthand the type of trust viewers place in their newscasters, and the passion with which they follow local news. From sports to politics, his depth of knowledge about the Boston area adds keen insight to many of the stories he covers.

Major stories Mark has covered over the years include the Boston Marathon Bombings, Whitey Bulger's capture, the Aaron Hernandez trial, the Pope's visit to America, the funeral for former President George H. W. Bush and flooding in Leominster. He's also covered several Patriots' Super Bowls and Red Sox World Series as well as all of the victory parades that followed.

Mark enjoys playing hockey, softball, fishing and golf. An avid runner, Mark ran the 2002 Boston Marathon with his brother Carl, a memory he cherishes to this day. He and his wife Marysia live in the Boston area and have three daughters, Allison, Juliana and Alena.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PERFORMERS

THE VICTORY BELLES



The Victory Belles of the National WWII Museum are a charming vocal trio who serenade audiences around the world! Their spirited performances feature dazzling costumes, choreography, audience interaction, and WWII era musical hits that are sung in three-part harmony. The music of the 1940s brought hope and joy to our GIs and those on the Home Front alike, and the Victory Belles keep that tradition alive today. Their wide variety of repertoire includes treasured gems of the 1940s plus patriotic classics, including a musical salute to each branch of the US Armed Forces. These talented young women honor our veterans and active duty members through hundreds of performances each year, including weekly shows at the WWII Museum's very own Stage Door Canteen.

This year we are proudly hosting:

Courtney Lee Anderson
Erika Lynn Jarlock
Allison Renee Newton

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PERFORMERS



DAN GABEL AND THE ABLETONES



Hailed by the Boston Globe as “The real deal...a band that looks and sounds just like the 1940s”, Dan Gabel and the Abletones is an authentic 18-piece Big Band. Formed in 2003 by bandleader, arranger and trombonist Dan Gabel, the band’s library includes over 4,000 arrangements. Since 2010, The Abletones have toured eight states, played for two Governors, and performed for dances, galas, fundraisers, museums, weddings, and on television. The band can be heard on five albums, including *The Abletones Live* (2018) and the critically-acclaimed *Homesick for New England* (2013).



STARS & STRIPES TRIBUTE

STARS & STRIPES SUPPORTED BY



IN MEMORY OF:

The Honorable Anthony Alaimo ~
United States Army Air Corps

Frederick "Fritz" Alaimo ~
United States Navy

MS2 (ss) Bruce Alexander ~
United States Navy

Marco Avigo ~
United States Army

James Contonio ~
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Staff Sergeant Karl F. Fehrle ~
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Paul "Tweet" Guiney ~
United States Marine Corps

Seaman 1st Class James F. Halloran ~
United States Navy

Corporal Edward Hansen ~
United States Army

Tec 5 Anthony G. Illiscavitch ~
United States Army, WWII

Private First Class Vincent J. Perrone ~
United States Army,
10th Mountain Division, WWII

Corporal Richard Ricardi ~
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Eng 3 Richard E. Spring ~
United States Navy

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United States Marine Corps

STARS & STRIPES TRIBUTE



IN HONOR OF:

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United States Air Force

Staff Sergeant Harrison Barjolo ~
United States Army

Sergeant Michael Bennett ~
United States Marine Corps

Sergeant Levarr Brewster ~
United States Army

Sergeant Raymond Carville ~
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United States Army

Sergeant William Corcoran ~
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Specialist Ken Corey ~
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Petty Officer Third Class Roy Savage ~
United States Navy

Sergeant David Somers ~
United States Army

Staff Sergeant Michael Trusso ~
United States Army



ABOUT VETERANS INC.

*They Were There When We Needed Them. . .
We Must Be There Now That They Need Us!*



OUR MISSION

To be there for our veterans and their families in their time of need with the ultimate goal to end homelessness among veterans. To help our veterans regain self-sufficiency through the provision of holistic supportive services, including housing, employment and training, case management, food security, health and wellness, women and family support programs, and dependent child services.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Veterans Inc. operates according to the philosophy that veterans have earned the respect and gratitude of our nation and that in return, Veterans Inc. shall provide them with whatever services are needed.

OUR VALUES

Veterans Inc. is fully committed to serving veterans and their families by providing comprehensive support and resources. This includes offering direct services or referrals to those who request assistance, providing emergency aid 24/7, and working tirelessly to secure housing for homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness. Veterans Inc. also focuses on enhancing employment opportunities through job search skills, advanced training, and individualized support. Additionally, the organization advocates on local, state, and national levels to address the unique needs of the veteran community and reminds civilians of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

Veterans Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts, was founded in 1990 as the one of the first veterans' services organizations in the nation. Today, Veterans Inc. is the largest service provider to veterans and their families in New England and provides a wide array of housing options, programs and supportive services to veterans and their families. The organization's single-minded mission is to be there for our veterans in their time of need and has helped nearly 100,000 veterans and their families over the past three decades. Services are offered in all six New England states as well as Montana and North Dakota. The service area expands across the United States with a toll-free call center connecting veterans and their families to appropriate resources.

ABOUT VETERANS INC.



History



Back in the early 1990's, a "Band of Brothers" realized that in their hometown, there was a tragic sense of abandonment for both a noble group of residents who had fallen on hard times and a landmark facility with a proud history.

The town was Worcester, Massachusetts, the facility was the 1889 National Guard Armory, and the residents were veterans who had become homeless.

Instead of turning their backs on the situation, as much of society had done, the Band of Brothers, veterans themselves, created a nonprofit charitable organization called "The Central Massachusetts Shelter for Homeless Veterans" that took on the formidable task of renovating the Armory and converting it into an emergency shelter that gave refuge to their fellow veterans, making it the fifth shelter of its kind in the nation to serve homeless veterans.

In 1993 while still serving on active duty, Lt Colonel Vincent J. Perrone began volunteering at the shelter and was soon elected President of the organization. He recruited Board Member Denis Leary to become the Executive Director, and the two lifelong friends launched an incredibly ambitious plan to help more veterans in need.

They expanded the agency's mission to include women veterans and veterans from all eras. They broadened the potential scope of services to include the first facility in the nation to offer in-house services to female veterans and their children, as well as employment & training and housing search. They created a massive food bank for all veterans of central Massachusetts.

With their formula for success now well-established, they set their sights on a larger geographic footprint to help an even more significant number of veterans. They were joined by Allison Alaimo (Senior Vice President of Finance, Development, and Administration), whose insight, talent, and focus set new benchmarks for fund-raising and community development, and Amanda Riik-Herron (Assistant Vice President of Administration and Employee

Relations), whose skill for staff recruitment, training, and education helped create cohesive and competent staffing. Together, this new leadership team evolved the agency into a professional, comprehensive, award-winning organization. Renamed Veterans Inc., the agency developed programs and offices in all six New England states, as well as Montana and North Dakota. In addition, we created a "National Hot Line" to provide broader access to our services.

Of particular note is the team's development of behavioral health programming. One of the complex realities of the veteran population is that they represent a disproportionate share of not only the homeless population but of those with an alcohol and drug use problem. In response, Veterans Inc. developed a strategic plan to establish licensed, professional, clinical treatment programs. In 2016, planning became a reality with the creation of Independence Hall, our 22-acre Shrewsbury site, which provides inpatient clinical stabilization services within the renovated 55,000 square foot complex. The team also expanded treatment programs to Worcester to include residential recovery support for those with co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health issues, intensive outpatient day treatment, outpatient counseling, and medication assisted treatment. The Behavioral Health programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and are part of the VA Community Care Network.

In September 2022, Veterans Inc. hosted the first annual Recovery Summit (now in its third year) at Independence Hall. An educational conference, the Recovery Summit brings together renowned speakers and experts in recovery health Best Practices to provide cutting-edge information and new treatment insights.

Although Veterans Inc. is New England's leading provider of support services to veterans and their families, with services that the team created, including housing, employment services, job training, case management, mental health and substance abuse counseling, health and wellness programs, healthcare navigation, benefits enrollment, VA and mainstream benefits counseling, advocacy, temporary financial assistance, food services, clothing, transportation, family support programs, specialized services for post-9/11 veterans, aging veterans, and women veterans, housing programs in Massachusetts, Bradford, Vermont; Lewiston, Maine; and New Britain, Connecticut with expanded support service programs in Montana and North Dakota, our most valued and cherished service is helping to remind everyone and anyone that, without veterans, our way of life would not exist, and that we are all, forever in their debt.



ABOUT VETERANS INC.

Programs and Services

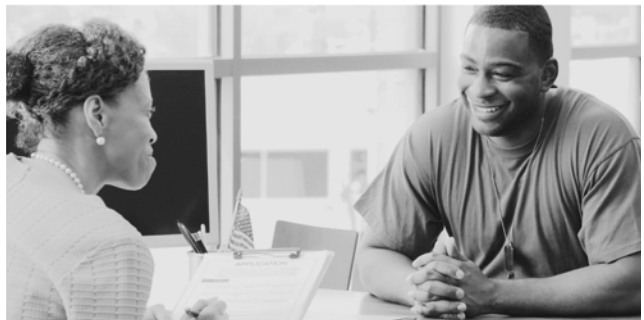


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Veterans Inc. provides physical, mental, and emotional care that helps individuals develop coping mechanisms and supports reintegration into families and communities. This care contributes to the success of Veterans Inc. in reducing homelessness. Veterans Inc. offers an evidence-based treatment program for males and females, prioritizing veterans, focused on recovery for those battling addiction, mental illness, trauma including post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression delivering services with cultural skill and sensitivity, with special expertise in the veteran's culture, considered the first of its kind in the country to be operated by a community non-profit veterans' organization. Licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited, Veterans Inc. behavioral health services provide inpatient stabilization, residential rehabilitation, co-occurring enhanced residential care, and intensive outpatient counseling. Services are centrally located at both our Worcester headquarters site, and at our Shrewsbury site, Independence Hall, where Medication Assisted Treatment is fully supported as a primary recovery tool, and Women's Services provide specialized inpatient stabilization treatment to women with a substance use diagnosis.

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

Veterans Inc. provides emergency and transitional programs throughout New England to veterans of all ages and eras. The program provides the basic human needs of food, clothing, and residential services to homeless veterans, working in tandem with other Veterans Inc. programs to ensure that when veterans are placed in long-term housing they remain there, ending the revolving door of homelessness seen in too many other areas. All sites provide supportive services on-site through case managers and site coordinators. Veterans Inc. works with each veteran to develop an individual service plan to meet their needs. The goals of the program are for clients to improve their mental health status and residential stability, increase their skill level or income, and achieve greater self-determination.



ABOUT VETERANS INC.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Veterans Inc. supports veterans in today's difficult job market by providing training and job placement services. This nationally recognized Employment & Training Program helps veterans obtain and retain jobs so they can stabilize their lives. Veterans receive job counseling,



support services, training, resume writing assistance, mock interviews, and job placement and retention services. Employment specialists conduct assessments of veterans' career interests, employment history, needs, abilities, and aspirations to determine a course of action for success and connect veterans to meaningful employment opportunities. Veterans in need of training or further certifications are provided job training either internally or through a training partner. Success in the workplace often hinges on employees' ability to successfully manage other areas of their lives; Veterans Inc. offers life skills, money management, transportation, childcare, and other supports to further eliminate potential obstacles to job success. After employment, staff follow-up to identify any potential issues before they become a barrier to sustained employment. A special component of the program engages with post-9/11 veterans to provide career advancing positions to those who are unemployed or underemployed.



OUTREACH AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

The Outreach program offers training, therapeutic group sessions, individual counseling, benefits counseling and advocacy, healthcare and benefit enrollment, employment support, transportation, and other support services such as food and clothing. The program is focused on the removal of barriers that prevent people from receiving critical services. Supportive services to veteran families focus on housing stabilization which offers case management, legal services, healthcare navigation, and temporary financial assistance to help low-income families obtain or remain in housing. Also offered is suicide prevention support that employs a public health approach that blends community-based prevention with evidence-based clinical strategies with a goal to reduce veteran suicide risk, improve baseline mental health status, well-being, and social support, and improve financial stability for individuals and their families. Veterans Inc. also provides housing retention assistance for veterans who have transitioned into their own permanent living situations and maintains a national, toll-free call center to provide veterans and their family members with needed support, referrals to other services, as well as to answer general inquiries on veterans' services.



For more information, visit our website: www.veteransinc.org.



ABOUT VETERANS INC.

Awards and Recognition



NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Veterans Inc. has been recognized three times with the prestigious “Outstanding Member Award” from the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), selected from over 250 member organizations nationwide. In addition, Executive Director Denis Leary received the 2023 Partnership Award, and President & CEO Vincent Perrone was honored with the 2024 Meritorious Service Award.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded Veterans Inc. the Secretary’s “Outstanding Service Provider Award”. The event, held in Washington DC, was part of the VA’s National Summit Ending Homelessness Among Veterans. Veterans Inc. was selected from more than 1,000 organizations serving veterans nationwide. “Veterans Inc. plays a vital role in improving the lives of veterans and their families in our community, and throughout New England,” said Congressman James McGovern (D-MA), who attended the award ceremony.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Dept. of Labor and NCHV identified the Veterans Inc. Employment and Training Program as an example of “Top Best Practices.” The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Best Practices Project was produced by the NCHV in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor-Veterans’ Employment and Training Service. Veterans Inc. receives grant funding through this program, and the organization serves as a guidepost for other community-based homeless service providers throughout the country that are developing employment assistance programs.

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF REHABILITATION FACILITIES (CARF)

Veterans Inc. achieved accreditation by CARF International, including accreditation in both veteran-specific services and substance use disorder treatment. This certification provides a visible symbol that assures the public of a provider’s commitment to continually enhance the quality of services and programs with a focus on the satisfaction of the persons served.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Veterans Inc. Maine team was recognized by the Veterans Employment and Education Commission of The American Legion for their outstanding achievement in veterans employment.

CALL OF DUTY ENDOWMENT

The Call of Duty Endowment bestowed its Seal of Distinction on Veterans Inc. for efforts to help veterans in need, specifically for the effectiveness and efficiency shown in placing veterans in jobs.

ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE



Veterans Inc. Sr. Vice President of Finance, Development, and Administration Allison Alaimo was honored with the 2023 Salute to Excellence in Administration and Finance Award from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare for her outstanding contributions to the field.

ABOUT INDEPENDENCE HALL



Independence Hall is a state-of-the-art substance use disorder treatment center that provides evidence-based, compassionate, innovative, and trauma-informed addiction and mental health treatment, as well as recovery support services in a holistic wellness environment that helps individuals address their substance use and, if needed, their co-occurring mental health disorders.

Situated on 22 acres of pristine open space in the heart of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, Independence Hall's clinical treatments are complemented by ample meeting rooms, reflective meditation spaces, pleasant walking paths, wilderness trails, and abundant outdoor space for activities and group meetings.

Independence Hall is licensed and accredited to provide inpatient Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS), Medication Assisted Treatment, and Outpatient Counseling. Services are available to both Veteran and civilian patients in

need of intensive clinical care and ongoing recovery support. Independence Hall accepts all major health insurance and ability to pay is never a barrier to treatment.

Our admission philosophy is to admit individuals into the least intensive level of care that matches their needs, with the most successful course of treatment often being the synergistic "Step-Down", which is a flow process that begins with CSS, followed by RRS in Worcester, then Day Treatment and Outpatient Counseling, until the individual is stabilized enough to maintain recovery through self-help groups and community support.

Independence Hall staff are highly educated and trained, providing a multi-disciplinary team that responds to patient's needs with love, understanding, and respect, while placing an emphasis on addressing underlying factors and traumas. The staff draw upon the organization's 30-plus years of experience and expertise in successfully

serving veterans and their families. This includes implementing our in-depth knowledge of the challenges related to substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders, identifying the tools and skills needed to rebuild lives, and providing the camaraderie and sense of belonging that can help individuals regain self-sufficiency and reconnect with their family, friends, and communities.

Veterans Inc. is extremely proud of the services delivered at Independence Hall, not only because the opiate epidemic continues to be an urgent national health crisis, but because Veterans make up a disproportionate share of the population experiencing the plight of addiction. The agency also plans to continue taking the lead in addressing this crisis for Veterans and the community at large and plans to expand services in order to continue to provide recovery support needed by our veterans.



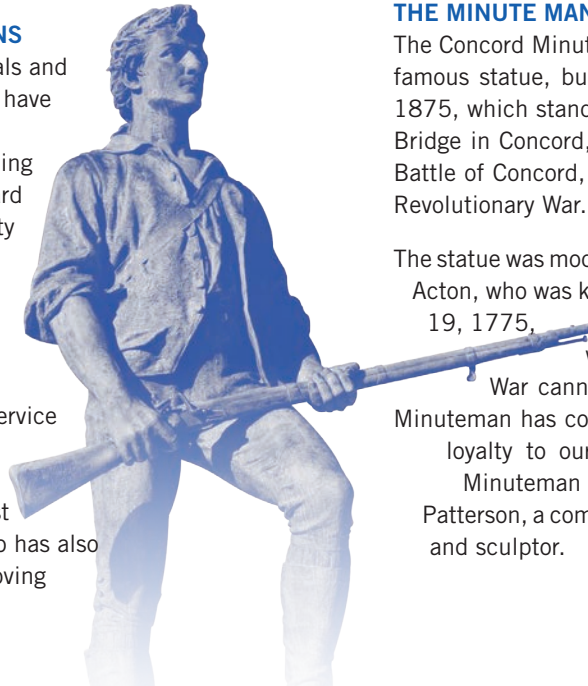
ABOUT THE MINUTEMAN AWARDS

THE MINUTEMAN AWARD FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Minuteman Award for Individuals and Organizations is given to those who have demonstrated a strong, ongoing commitment to serving and supporting Veterans. The recipients of this award go far beyond the normal call of duty to better the lives of veterans and their families.

THE MINUTEMAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Minuteman Award for Public Service is given to an elected official or government employee who has not only exhibited a willingness to assist Veterans and their families, but who has also effected change, significantly improving the lives of our veterans.



THE MINUTE MAN STATUE

The Concord Minute Man Statue is a replica of the famous statue, built by Daniel Chester French in 1875, which stands adjacent to the historic North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts, the site of the Battle of Concord, the first battle in the American Revolutionary War.

The statue was modeled after Captain Isaac Davis of Acton, who was killed at the bridge in battle April 19, 1775, and it is said that the statue was made from melted down Civil War cannons. Because of its history, the Minuteman has come to symbolize patriotism and loyalty to our country. The casting for this Minuteman Award is the work of Terrance Patterson, a commercial artist, exhibits designer, and sculptor.

PAST RECIPIENTS

FRANCIS R. CARROLL, USN (VETERAN)

*Chairman & CEO, Carroll Enterprises
Minuteman Award for Individuals*

THOMAS G. KELLEY, CAPTAIN, USN (RETIRED)

*Former Secretary, Massachusetts
Department of Veterans Services
Minuteman Award for Public Service*

BRUCE S. BENNETT, USMC (VETERAN)

*Retired Publisher, Telegram & Gazette
Minuteman Award for Individuals*

STEPHEN M. BREWER

*Massachusetts State Senate,
Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire
and Middlesex District
Minuteman Award for Public Service*

JAMES H. HARRINGTON, USN (VETERAN)

*President, Dolphin Resource Group, Inc.
Minuteman Award for Individuals*

PETER DOUGHERTY

*Former Director, Homeless Veterans
Programs, United States Department of
Veterans Affairs
Minuteman Award for Public Service*

BLUE STAR MOTHERS, CENTRAL MASS CHAPTER 3

Minuteman Award for Organizations

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY

*Former Lieutenant Governor,
Massachusetts
Minuteman Award for Public Service*

THE HOME DEPOT

Minuteman Award for Organizations

COLEMAN NEE

*Former Secretary, Massachusetts
Department of Veterans' Services
Minuteman Award for Public Service*

DCU

Minuteman Award for Organizations

LT. GOVERNOR KARYN POLITO

Minuteman Award for Public Service

TJX COMPANIES

Minuteman Award for Organizations

JAMES P. MCGOVERN

*U.S. House of Representatives,
MA. Second Congressional District
Minuteman Award for Public Service
(2002, 2022)*

DEBRA MARK

*President and CEO of AllCom
Credit Union (Retired)*

MINUTEMAN AWARDEE BIO



EDWARD (ED) M. AUGUSTUS

Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities

Secretary Ed Augustus was appointed by Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey in June 2023 to lead the newly created Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. An experienced, results-driven executive, Augustus has spent more than 35 years in public service, building effective teams and bringing people together to have a positive impact on communities. As the secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Augustus leads the state's mission to create more homes and lower housing costs for Massachusetts residents. The executive office also distributes funding for community development initiatives, oversees the state's public housing and operates homelessness prevention and housing stabilization programs.

Before joining the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Augustus served as city manager of Worcester, where he led the state's second-largest city through a revitalization that became known as the Worcester Renaissance. Under his administration, the gateway city saw a wave of new development, infrastructure improvements and new housing that attracted statewide attention and restored pride to residents.

As city manager, Augustus also spearheaded the \$240 million landmark redevelopment of Worcester's Canal District and Kelley Square, including leading negotiations to relocate the Boston Red Sox AAA affiliate (now the WooSox) to the city and construction of the multi-use Polar Park stadium.

Before joining the city of Worcester, Augustus served as director of Government & Community Relations for the College of Holy Cross, state senator for the 2nd Worcester District, chief of staff for Congressman Jim McGovern, and chief of staff to the assistant secretary for Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs at the U.S. Department of Education under President Clinton's administration.



SALUTING THE PAST

Highlights from the 2022 Gala Military Ball



SALUTING THE PAST

Highlights from the 2022 Gala Military Ball





SEMPER FIDELIS

A Short History of the United States Marine Corps



The United States Marine Corps was established by the Second Continental Congress on November 10, 1775, as the Continental Marines. The Marines were initially created to serve as an infantry unit aboard naval vessels, providing security and ensuring discipline among sailors. After the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Marines were disbanded in 1783, but the need for a dedicated force to conduct amphibious operations and protect American interests led to the formal re-establishment of the U.S. Marine Corps on July 11, 1798.

The U.S. Marine Corps first saw significant action during the Quasi-War with France from 1798 to 1800 and the 1st and 2nd Barbary Wars, where they earned their legendary reputation for resilience and effectiveness, notably in the Battle of Derna in 1805, commemorated in the Marine Corps Hymn with the line “to the shores of Tripoli.”

Throughout the 19th century, the Marines participated in numerous conflicts, including the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and the suppression of piracy in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. The Marine Corps also played a crucial role during the American Civil War, serving in both amphibious assaults and traditional land battles.

The Marine Corps continued to evolve and expand its capabilities. By the late 19th century, the Marines were involved in actions across the globe, including the Spanish-American War in 1898, where they seized Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, establishing a permanent U.S. naval base.

The 20th century saw the Marine Corps solidify its role as



SEMPER FIDELIS

A Short History of the United States Marine Corps



America's elite amphibious force. During World War I, Marines distinguished themselves in battles such as Belleau Wood, earning the nickname "Devil Dogs" from German soldiers. World War II further demonstrated the Corps' critical role in major campaigns, particularly in the Pacific Theater, where they spearheaded the island-hopping strategy, capturing key islands such as Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Following World War II, the Marine Corps was involved in the Korean War, where they executed the famous Inchon landing, and the Vietnam War, where they were engaged in intense combat operations. During the Cold War, the Marines continued to serve as a rapid response force, quelling conflicts and crises around the world.



THE MARINE CORPS TODAY...

Today, the United States Marine Corps remains a critical component of America's military power, renowned for its rapid deployment capabilities and its role as the nation's premier amphibious force. The Marine Corps continues to modernize its forces, with ongoing development in advanced amphibious vehicles, next-generation combat equipment, and the integration of cutting-edge technology into training and operations.





HISTORY OF THE GALA MILITARY BALL

Formal military dinners are a tradition in all branches of the United States Armed Services. In the Air Force and Navy, it is the Dining-In; in the Army, the Regimental Dinner; in the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, Mess Night. In the civilian community it is better known as the Gala Military Ball. The dinners represent the most formal aspects of military social life and have been a custom for ages.

Many of our military customs are traceable to the earliest warriors. The dining-in is one such tradition that has its roots in the shadows of antiquity. It is believed to have begun with the pre-Christian Roman Legions. Roman military commanders frequently held great banquets to honor individuals and military units. These gatherings were victory celebrations.

The second century Viking warlords stylized the format of the victory feast. With the exception of the lookout, the entire clan attended these celebrations. Feats of strength and skill were performed to entertain the members and guests.

Roman and Viking warriors transplanted the dining-in custom to ancient England. King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table practiced a form of this custom in the sixth century. The tradition eventually spread to non-military groups, such as Saxon nobles of the tenth century and the medieval monasteries. The clergy spread the custom to the early universities. British officers carried the tradition back to the military.

It became increasingly formalized with the advent of the officers' mess. British soldiers brought the custom to colonial America where it was borrowed by George Washington's continental army.

Many early American customs were British in origin and the military was no exception. The formal military dinner, often referred to by the British as guest night, provided an opportunity for officers to gather for an evening of good food, drinking, and fellowship.

In establishing an independent nation, America's founders borrowed much of the military structure of their adversary, including social customs. The popularity and growth of the tradition in the United States parallels its popularity and growth in Great Britain and the Commonwealth nations, particularly Canada and Australia.

Despite the colonists' aversion to anything suggesting the Redcoat, Continental naval and army officers must have fully realized the value of these occasions in the promotion of pride of service, high morale, and loyalty.

One story tells of a commander of an Indian outpost who had officers under his command that were never around for dinner because the local area was more interesting than the post officers' mess. The commander, tired of eating alone, sought to bring the officers back to the mess and create a camaraderie and instituted a program whereby all officers would not only dine at least once a month in the mess, but they would dine in full military ceremony. In the pioneer era of military aviation, the late General H. H. "Hap" Arnold is reported to have held famous parties called Wing-Dings at March Field in 1933, inaugurating the first of these occasions.

The long association of U.S. Army Air Force officers with the British during World War II surely stimulated increased American interest in the dining-in custom. But while this association brought the American format and protocol of the dining-in custom more in-line with the English tradition, the war years also proved to be the high point of dining-in popularity, as they steadily declined in frequency until the late 1950's.

Fortunately, despite the obstacles of the twentieth century, the tradition of dining-in has not died. Veterans of the old days remember and revive the tradition at every opportunity. They recognize the important role these occasions plan in preserving the traditions of military service.

A dining-in or Gala Military Ball is still a popular tradition today. Various forms of entertainment may also be included to add to the evening. The evening is designed so that members of an organization can have a good time as a unit and above all to be a fun and memorable event for everyone!

VETERAN SUCCESS STORIES



JANELESS

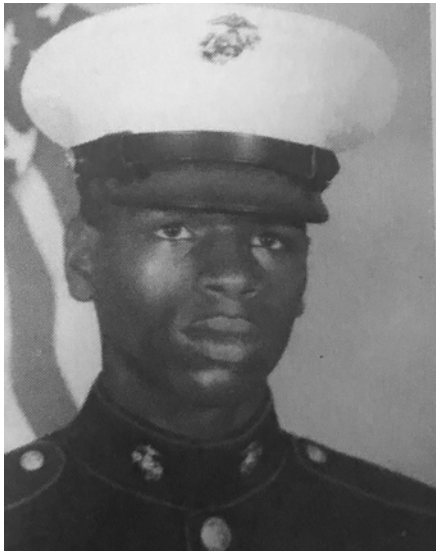


UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS VETERAN

Janeless is a former U.S. Marine Corps supply warehouse clerk, having served from 2008-2010 with a deployment to Okinawa, Japan. After her service, she faced significant health and re-adjustment challenges, including homelessness. With the support of Veterans Inc., particularly through the Independence Hall addiction treatment center, Janeless overcame these obstacles and is now pursuing certification as a Recovery Coach through an accredited program.



DEAN



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS & UNITED STATES ARMY VETERAN

Dean served as an E-5 Sergeant in both the United States Army Reserve and the United States Marine Corps Reserve, as well as an E-4 Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, with a combined 16 years of service from 1980-2004, including reserve duty and breaks in service. Throughout his journey, he partnered with Veterans Inc., benefiting from various programs such as the Veterans Housing and Repair Modification Program (VHRMP), which helped repair his home. He worked closely with a Veterans Inc. benefits specialist to secure support for himself and his children, improving his financial situation.

Dean overcame homelessness as a single father, raising his daughter, who has since graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 2023. Despite the challenges he faced, Dean remained connected with Veterans Inc., continuing to volunteer at events, including the recent Stand Down. He is passionate about giving back to the veteran community, actively supporting fellow veterans in local groups and offering his experience and guidance to those in need.





EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Veterans Inc. is honored to have hosted a series of impactful fundraising and charitable events throughout the year, including:



THE 27TH ANNUAL BEST BALL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC:

On May 8, 2024, Veterans Inc. hosted the 27th Annual Best Ball Charity Golf Classic at Cyprian Keyes Golf Course in Boylston, MA. The sold-out event brought together golf enthusiasts to support veterans and their families. Highlights included an 18-hole tournament, a continental breakfast sponsored by Tito's, Chick-fil-A, City Line Bagels, and Good As Gold Coffee, along with a VIP experience, raffle, silent auction, 50/50 ball drop, and a plated steak dinner. All proceeds benefited Veterans Inc. programs.



VETERANS INC. 19TH ANNUAL STAND DOWN:

On June 21st, Veterans Inc. hosted the 19th Annual Stand Down, the largest Veteran-focused Resource Fair in Central, MA. This event served over 500 veterans and their family members with all services and items free to attendees. Through our Stand Down Initiative, we connect veterans with the assistance programs they need to live healthy and fulfilling civilian lives. With over 150 service providers from all walks of life – both public and private sector – in attendance; ready to accommodate our veterans' needs. We got here by relying on the outstanding generosity and dedication of our community.



3RD ANNUAL RECOVERY SUMMIT:

On September 19, 2024, in recognition of National Recovery Month, the 3rd Annual Recovery Summit at Independence Hall, the Veterans Inc. treatment center in Shrewsbury, MA. The theme, Art, Aria, & Architecture: The Recovery Oasis, highlighted the role of creativity, culture, and design in the healing process. Local officials, government representatives, and addiction experts gathered to promote recovery, eliminate stigma, award presentations and celebrate the recovery community. The event featured expert discussions, performances, and exhibits, followed by a luncheon and networking session.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Veterans Inc. is excited to present several upcoming events, offering numerous opportunities to engage and support our veterans and their families.



RUN4VETERANS 5K:

Join the Run4Veterans 5K to run for victory, walk for fun, or simply enjoy a great day while supporting veterans and families in need. This event brings together individuals, families, and friends to honor veterans and give back to those who have served our nation. Veterans run for FREE.

November 3rd

Polar Park 100 Madison St. Worcester, MA



VETERANS DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST & PARADE:

Join us for a special Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast, where we honor over 300 veterans and their families with a morning of food and community. Enjoy homemade pancakes, eggs, bacon, and more, while kids can take part in patriotic crafts and fun family activities. This free event is open to all and celebrates the spirit of togetherness and gratitude for our veterans.

November 11th

Veterans Inc. HQ 69 Grove St. Worcester MA.



HOLIDAY HARVEST:

The Veterans Inc. Holiday Harvest transforms the historic armory into a vibrant, farmers market-style event, providing Thanksgiving meal supplies to over 700 veteran families. Guests can visit the Turkey Tent, Stuffing Tent, Pie Tent, and stations offering fresh vegetables and more, ensuring families receive everything needed for their festive holiday.

November 26th

Veterans Inc. HQ 69 Grove St. Worcester MA.

HONORING ALL VETERANS

We thank you for your service and sacrifices

At Always Best Care, we advocate on behalf of Veterans, surviving spouses and their families to apply for the VA Pension benefit through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Elderly veterans receive assistance with the activities of daily living, which allows them to age in the comfort of their own home.

Care & Funding for Veterans

We not only provide outstanding care for veterans; we also help them obtain the funds to pay for the care they need. If your veteran should need assisted living, we can refer you to one of our care consultants to coordinate those services for you as well. Trust us to provide peace of mind and help alleviate the stress of finding quality senior care.

Our services include:

- Assistance Available
- Meal preparation
- Grocery Shopping
- Laundry
- Housekeeping
- Supervision and Companionship
- Medication Reminders
- Hygiene
- Incontinence
- Bathing
- Dressing
- Transferring out of bed
- Assistance to appointments



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AlwaysBestCareWorcester.com

Independently owned and operated offices throughout the United States and Canada

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
AND ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL!**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PFC BRIAN MOQUIN

NEVER FORGET

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES ARMY

Pfc. Brian M. Moquin Jr., enlisted in the Army in March 2005. He attended basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and was assigned to the 71st Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York in August 2005. He deployed to Afghanistan in February 2006 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brian was tragically killed along with nine fellow soldiers on May 5, 2006 in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan when the Chinook helicopter they were on crashed while on a mission to find al-Qaida and Taliban militants who were believed to be hiding in the rugged terrain near the border of Pakistan. Because of the remote, dangerous area they were in, their remains weren't recovered until 3 days later. Brian was only 19 years old.

Brian posthumously received numerous military awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Brian, was a talented artist and musician who wrote poetry and song lyrics. He loved skateboarding, going to concerts, and was a member of a local band "Coordinates Cartesia".

Brian was an old soul who also enjoyed the music of Frank Sinatra and Johnny Cash. He was unfailingly loyal to his family and friends. He was adventurous, creative, witty and funny and was full of life with a smile always on his face.





EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE WITH SOMOS®



**Join an award-winning team
transforming the future of
trusted communications!**

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Vincent J. Perrone

December 2, 1925 to

May 19, 2016

Army Veteran,

10th Mountain Division

World War II



Like many others from the "Greatest Generation", Vincent Perrone was not even out of High School when he entered the Armed Forces of WWII, fighting alongside his comrades of the 10th Mountain Division - Special Forces of the U.S. Army, as part of Company E, 87th Infantry Regiment.

During his tour of duty, he received the Bronze Star and seven other medals and awards. One of his many significant acts of heroism and bravery was when, while fighting in the Alps, he surprised

and captured 22 German soldiers and single-handedly skied them down the mountain to his unit's base camp. Upon returning from the war, Vincent worked at Wyman Gordan Company while going to Cosmetology School. After earning his certification and license, Vincent opened Perrone Hairstylers which he successfully owned and operated for 70 years, right up to the time of his passing. **A WWII veteran, war hero, loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, his memory will live in our hearts forever.**

The Perrone Family



U.S. SENATOR

Ed Markey

United States Senator for Massachusetts



*A sincere thank you to our Veterans for their
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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and I would like to welcome you to Biennial Gala Military Ball hosted by Veterans Inc.

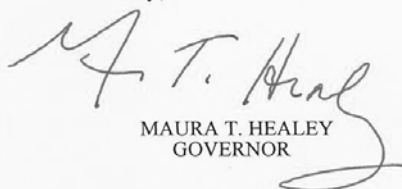
The Biennial Gala Military Ball honors those who serve, while also raising awareness and funds to support ongoing initiatives that benefit our veteran community. The Veteran Inc. Gala Military Ball is like no other and it stands out as one of the most memorable Veteran events in Massachusetts.

This year's event will include an evening tribute to our veterans, featuring fine dining and live music. Attendees will enjoy captivating performances that honor the spirit of World War II era Classics by the Victory Belles from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, along with a live band provided by Dan Gabel and Abeltones – it will certainly be a night to remember.

As we take a moment to reflect on the values that unite our community, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Veteran Inc. for the outstanding work they do to support our Veterans. Thank you for the commitment to providing essential resources and programs to the ones who served our country.

We want to thank all of tonight's guests and participants for their contributions to this special event. The Lieutenant Governor and I are grateful for their service and wish you a lovely evening.

Sincerely,


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



REPRESENTATIVE

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*With immense gratitude, we honor our
Veterans for their sacrifice and commitment*

*And extend our thanks to Veterans Inc. for the
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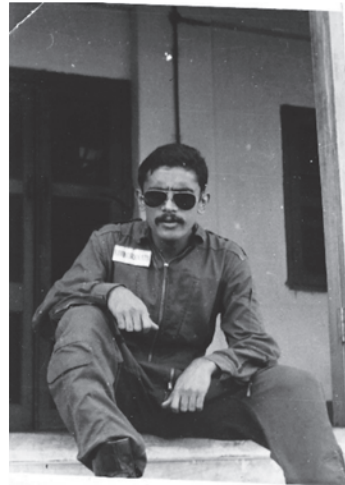
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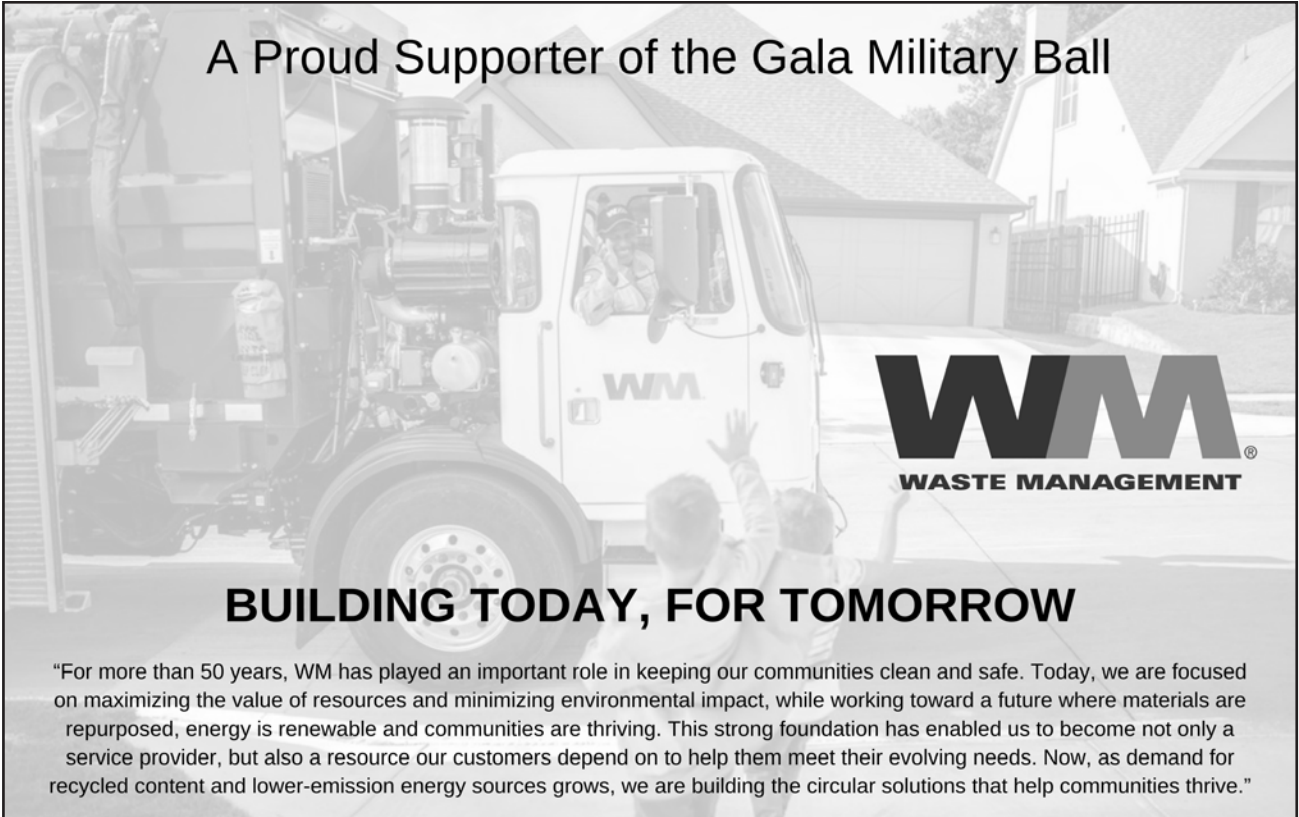
In Memory of Squadron Leader of the Indian Air Force
Ravindranath “Ravi” Rajagopal



Ravindranath “Ravi” Rajagopal, a decorated fighter pilot and squadron leader in the Indian Air Force, passed away in action on September 8, 1993, in Halwara, India.

Prashanth and Anuradha “Juju” Palakurthi have remembered Juju’s brother by donating in his memory by providing critical clinical health services to military veterans in our community who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.





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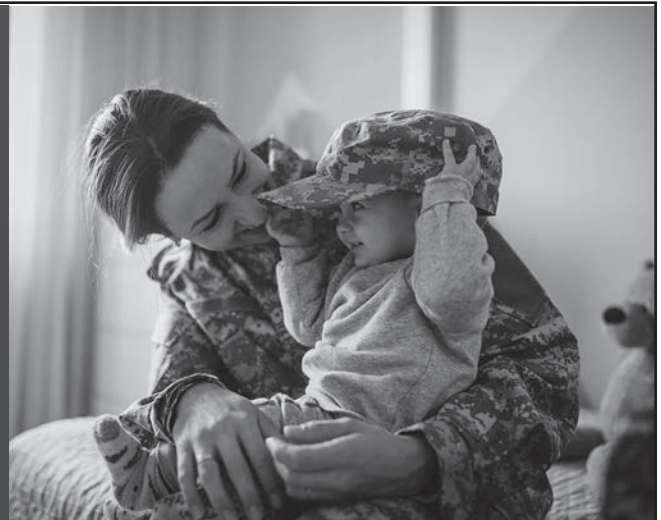
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Lt. Danielle Leary McCarthy
U.S. NAVY



Sgt. Colin McCarthy
U.S. MARINE CORPS.



~ The Leary Family



SENATOR

Michael O. Moore

Second Worcester District



Thank you to our Veterans for their service

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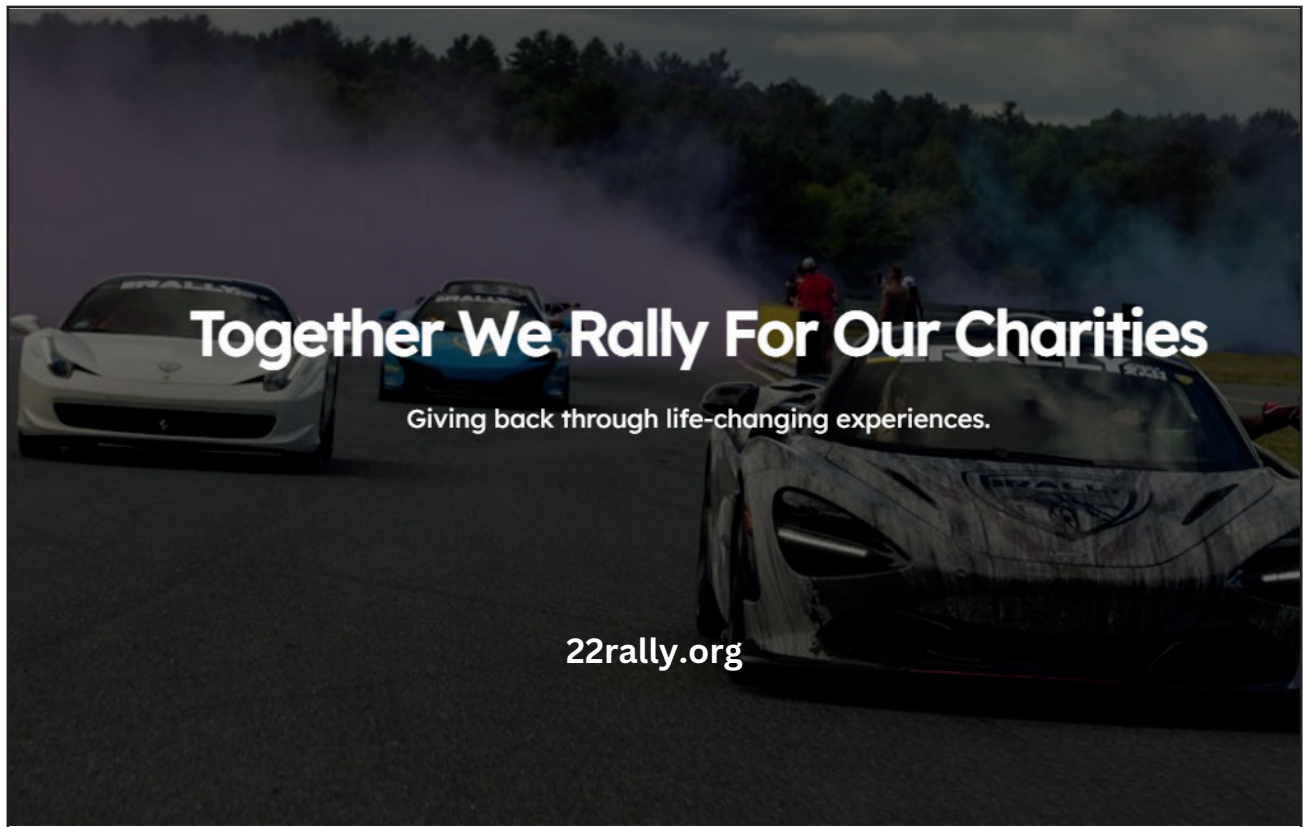
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22Rally	68
Aalanco Service Co.	54
Absolute Construction Group, LLC	50
Always Best Care	36
Allcom Credit Union	61
Atrius Health	64
Berkshire Bank	64
Blackstone Productions	70
BlueHive Exhibits	69
Breathe EZ Cleaning	53
CES Power/Immedia	56
Cornerstone Bank	63
Continental Woodcraft	65
Cross Country Mortgage	68
Daley Valet	48
Early, District Atty. Joseph	53
Evangelidis, Sheriff Lew	62
Hanscom Federal Credit Union	2, 74
Healey, Gov. Maura T.	43
Herbert E. Berg Florist	57
Highland Street Foundation	73
Holiday Harvest	67
Interstate Specialty Products	60
Kennedy, State Sen. Robyn	53
M.A. Restoration	41
Mahoney, State Rep. John	54
Markey, U.S. Sen. Ed	40
McCarthy, Sgt. Colin	51
McCarthy, Lt. Danielle Leary	51
McGovern, Rep. James P	44
Meineke	41
Merrimack Valley Credit Union	63
Moquin, PFC Brian	37
Moore, Sen. Michael	52
O'Day, State Rep. James	42
Peppers Artful Events	59
Perrone, Vincent J.	39
Petty, Mayor Joseph	41
PixPro Photo	45
Rajagopal, Ravindranath "Ravi"	46
Reliant Medical Group	62
Rockland Trust Bank	58
Rossiano, S1C Vincent J.	50
Salem Five Charitable Foundation	47
Slide Rule Films	55
Somos	38
TJX Companies	70
Nu-England Services, Co.	42
Warren, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth	49
Waste Management.	47
Webster First Savings Bank	58
Yama Zakura Sushi	66



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