



OPERATION TROOP APPRECIATION

COMMITTED TO
OUR COURAGEOUS
MEMBERS OF THE
US MILITARY, PAST
AND PRESENT

THE Eagle

Winter 2022

OTA ON THE MOVE!

We are very excited to announce that OTA is moving into a new building! We purchased the property located at 2017 Pennsylvania Avenue, West Mifflin PA and will be moving to our new home in December. If you're familiar with the northern end of West Mifflin, you might remember this as the "Knights of Columbus" building. Most recently, it was occupied by Oasis Ministries.

This 2 story building will serve as our Operations & Events Center. The main level is a large space that will be used as an event & meeting space. The lower level provides ample space for us to organize and conduct our Active-Duty "Wishlist" and Veteran "Welcome Home" programs.

Over the next few months, renovations will be completed on the building and once complete, we look forward to hosting our grand opening celebration! Stay tuned for more information as we enter this exciting new chapter of support for the members of our military and veteran communities!

Our move date is December 18, 2022. We will be closed during the month of December as our volunteers will be very busy packing, moving and setting up operations in the new building so we can open in our new space January 2, 2023.

To help complete renovations, we have established a separate Building Renovation donation campaign. To support this effort, simply click on the link below and make a donation:

<https://operationtroopappreciation.networkforgood.com/projects/174884-ota-building-renovation>



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MISSION

OTA's mission is to show our commitment to our military community, reflecting our dedication to past and present, active and veteran members of our Armed Forces.

OTA demonstrates its mission to build and sustain the morale and well-being of the military community by providing them with items and services that contribute to their morale, well-being, and self-sufficiency.

MOMENT WITH MO

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to a close! And it's been another milestone year for Operation Troop Appreciation! I'm excited to share all the details with you in this issue of The Eagle. In this issue you'll read some heartfelt letters from those we serve, and you'll learn all about the very exciting changes our charity is going through.

For 18 years, OTA and our team of volunteers have worked tirelessly for our troops and veterans and we could not do it without your help! Your support and generosity have made it possible for us to grow and provide support for 200,000 troops and veterans – full disclosure, we are 520 away from 200,000 but who's counting? Seriously, we will exceed this milestone by the end of the year thanks to YOU!

As the holidays draw near, I can't help but feel immense gratitude for the blessings that have been bestowed on our charity. If you had asked me in 2004, when we started this project, where we would be in 2022, I would have said probably not needed. But here we are, needed more than ever as we address the needs of the thousands of US military members serving in Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Niger, Qatar, Kuwait, Asia and Europe while ensuring that those who have returned home get the support they need and the thank you they deserve.

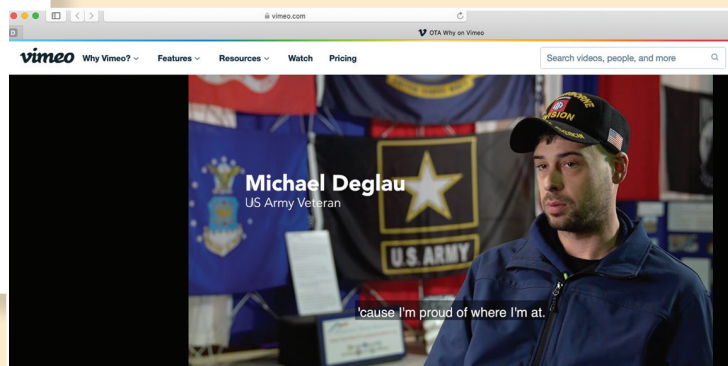
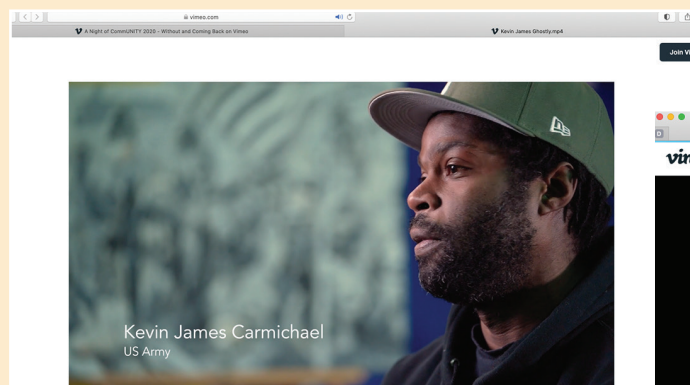
THANK YOU so much for your ongoing support. From the 100% volunteer staff at OTA, many wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

– *Monica*



OTA Veterans' Stories of Service

Be sure to check out what our vets have to say about OTA on www.operationtroopappreciation.org or link to: <https://vimeopro.com/user20144885/operation-troop-appreciation/video/528406541>



OVERSTOCK EXTRAVAGANZA – MAKE US AN OFFER!

As we prepare for our big move, we once again have some great merchandise that you can obtain for a donation!

Our next event will be held November 19 and 20 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. We have tables full of household items, toys, auto parts, bedding and lot's of holiday themed goodies to choose from. And once again we have our “bag it” area with a variety of brand new clothing items.

Please join us for the final event at our current Operations Center, 1200 Lebanon Road, Unit #510, West Mifflin PA (we are located between the Brentwood Beer Distributor & Don Farr Moving and Storage in the South Hills Industrial Park).



OTA GENTLY USED JEWELRY SALE

It's that time of year again! Join us **November 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** at the South Park Community Center, 2675 Brownsville Road, South Park, PA 15129 (building behind the library). Find that special gift or pick up a vintage piece for yourself! Crafters can find thousands of pieces to choose from to incorporate into their art! No item costs more than \$5! We'll also have a gift basket raffle!



Plan to join us and support our troops and veterans.

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT – GBU LIFE



For 18 years OTA has sustained operations through the generous support of our donors and sponsors. We'd like to take a moment to send a special thank you to **GBU Life**.

We have partnered with GBU Life for three years now in Operation Reach Out, a program designed to allow GBU Life members and employees volunteer opportunities and that has provided substantial financial support to our programs. Most recently, GBU Life volunteers held a volunteer day packing 250 each of snack bags, hygiene kits and morale boosting bags for our troops.

GBU Life has also provided a designated grant to OTA in the amount of \$100,000 to help complete the renovations on our new building. THANK YOU GBU Life for your dedication to our troops and veterans and your most generous support of OTA!

OTA REACHES TOP RATED CHARITY FOR THE 12TH YEAR IN A ROW!



OTA is honored to be the recipient of the Greatnonprofits.org "Top Rated Charity" award for 12 consecutive years! This award is very special as it is a reflection of the 5 stars reviews our donors, volunteers and beneficiaries post about OTA!



PITTSBURGH SPORTS TEAMS SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

We all love our sports teams and they definitely love our military! We are proud to be the recipients of our teams support for the military and veteran communities.

Pittsburgh Pirates

The Pittsburgh Pirates in partnership with 84 Lumber honored 10 local veterans prior to games during the month of May. These "Flag Raising Ceremonies" provided the veteran with great seats to the game, recognition of their service and a keepsake framed photo. These veterans were referred by OTA and have been beneficiaries of our "Welcome Home" program!



Pittsburgh Steelers

The Pittsburgh Steelers show their support of our troops and veterans in many ways, and OTA is honored to partner with them to demonstrate that support! During the Steelers "Heroes Night Out" event September 15th, local veterans who benefitted from OTA's "Welcome Home Program" were invited to an ultimate football experience at Acrisure Stadium. Veterans were provided with a fun night of football, food and camaraderie, as the Steelers thanked them for their service and sacrifice.

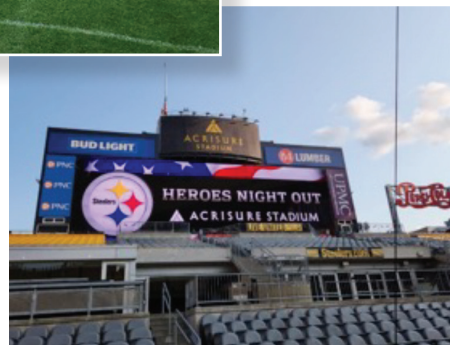


Pittsburgh Penguins & Penguins Foundation



From providing our troops in Iraq with field hockey equipment, providing game experiences for our veterans and volunteers and grant funding, the Pittsburgh

Penguins & Penguins Foundation have supported OTA multiple times throughout our history. We are honored to have been chosen as a featured charity for the November 5th "Military Appreciation" game! OTA had a table in the main concourse and a special video spot during the game. Plus the Penguins Foundation provided OTA with a \$10,000 grant!



SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE



Support of our military continues during the Steelers as they celebrate Military Appreciation night during the November 20th game against the Cincinnati Bengals. OTA has been chosen as one of the charities who will receive a donation during the half-time military skills competition. The US Navy will be playing for OTA and we will be rooting them on to a first place win!

The Steelers have also gifted OTA with a number of flat screen televisions and mini refrigerators for our "Welcome Home" program.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

We are honored to share feedback from those we provide support to!

We received our huge care packages today. Words cannot express the gratitude that I feel for the blessings that you sent to us. I was overjoyed to see the smiling faces around me as everyone dove in to see what treats they could find. The females were especially grateful for their specific products that they received (apparently it is difficult to order some of the items here). My interaction with your organization brought a lot of joy to soldiers that are missing home. I cannot thank you enough for everything that you and your organization does.

– SGT. J. I., Egypt



OTA is an AMAZING organization. They kindly sent exercise equipment replacements and enhancements that has increased the morale. They are easy to work with and make things happen fast. This came at an amazing time when the rising fuel costs inadvertently “slashed” what we could do for our people with unit funding. OTA saved the day and helped us!

– Major C.W., Undisclosed location, Middle East

The folks at Operation Troop Appreciation are awesome! They sent us a great care package filled with all the items that we have a hard time getting over here. They truly went above and beyond in providing additional morale and a taste of back home. Thank you for all that you do for us!



OTA Made sure my kids had presents at Christmas after I fell on financial hard times. One of the few nonprofits in Pittsburgh who is in it to serve veterans, not their own ego.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Easy Donations or Organized Collection Drives

Please remember, there are troops deployed all over the world. OTA is always in need of donated items and monetary contributions to fulfill our troops' "Wish List" requests.

In many deployed locations, especially in the Middle East, our troops are unable to purchase many items on their own and must rely on packages from supporters at home.

Please consider donating any of the following items to OTA to help our troops and veterans stay stocked on critical needs.

Hygiene

- Body wash
- Men's deodorant
- Men's triple blade razors

Food (unopened and unexpired)

- Nuts & tuna packets
- Beef jerky & beef sticks
- Dried fruit & trail mix
- Granola bars & energy bars
- Cookies, crackers, chips & pretzels
- Powdered drink mix (no liquids please)
- Specialty ground coffee (NO K-cups)

Veteran Welcome Home Kits

- Multi-purpose cleaner & dish soap
- Aluminum foil & plastic wrap
- Quart & gallon zipper bags
- Tall Kitchen & large trash bags
- Buckets, brooms, dustpan sets
- Kitchen towels & cleaning rags
- Bath towel sets
- Cleaning rags & sponges
- Small Appliances
- Twin and Full-Size Sheet sets & Comforters



NEW ITEMS IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING, PLEASE!

Yellow Ribbon Campaign

A simple and easy way to help raise money for the troops! OTA will provide you with a "Support the Troops" Yellow Ribbon template, you print them and distribute for a donation (typically \$2-\$5). Donors write their names on the ribbons which are then posted in your church, school, or store. Proceeds are given to OTA to purchase "Wish List" items for the troops.

Cents for Soldiers

OTA's Cents for Soldiers campaign is a great option to raise funds simply by collecting loose change! Groups place a Cents for Soldiers Donation Jar in a central location, and ask family, friends and coworkers to toss their spare change in. It's also a popular activity for schools to teach students math and counting skills, as well as community awareness.

Support OTA When Shopping Online

To purchase Welcome Home Kit items that are shipped directly to us, go to:

smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/81-0651982

You shop, Amazon Smile donates!

Go to Smile.Amazon.com, search for us and log onto your Amazon account to donate to OTA when making purchases.

Cards and letters are always welcome and included in the gifts we provide to troops and veterans.

For more information on these programs, please contact OTA Chief Operating Officer, **Sherry Einhaus**, sherry@operationtroopappreciation.org or by phone at 412-973-1831.

Connect With Us

Operation Troop Appreciation is an official cause on Facebook and Twitter.

Follow us for announcements of upcoming events, notice of volunteer opportunities, pictures and postings from the troops we help.





HELP A HERO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

THE TROOPS WE SERVE

You are far from home, missing your family.

Most of your days are spent out on patrol, never knowing when the fighting will start again.

The weather is extreme – over 100 degrees in summer, far below zero in winter.

Your missions are dangerous and you worry about those you serve with and those you left at home.

The conditions you live in are austere, and basic necessities like shampoo, toothbrushes, and razors are scarce.

Now imagine, you come back to your tent after a long mission and sitting on your cot is a box full of the things you miss most from home. **A box from OTA!**

YOUR GIFT TO OTA

Target donation items OTA provides:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| \$50 | Foul weather moisture wicking clothing for a soldier |
| \$100 | Transportation to doctor appointments for a veteran |
| \$275 | Brand new bed for a veteran |
| \$350 | Tactical gloves and eye-protective glasses for a unit of troops |
| \$500 | Full size bed, mattress set, and Welcome Home Kit for a veteran |
| \$900 | Sports equipment, nutritional supplements, work out gear and healthy snacks to a platoon of troops |
| \$1,250 | Beds and a welcome home kit for a veteran family of four. |

THE VETERANS WE SERVE

You've made it home and you receive the VA help you deserve: medical care, job and housing assistance.

You move into your new home, but you don't have a bed so you're sleeping on the floor.

You don't have anything to cook with, so you eat fast food, if you eat anything at all.

You have a doctor's appointment, but no car and no way to get there.

You're starting a new job, but worry because you haven't slept well, haven't eaten and will have to walk to get there.

Now imagine, you get a phone call and a knock on the door. A brand new bed is delivered along with boxes and bags of all the things you need to make your house a home. You get a phone call and you now have transportation to get to work and your doctor appointments. **All provided by OTA!**



**100% VOLUNTEER
FOR 18 YEARS!**

**WE SERVE THOSE
WHO VOLUNTEER
TO SERVE OUR
COUNTRY!**



18 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Total Donations:

3.8 MILLION DOLLARS!

Launched Active Duty Wish List Program 2004:

199,480 TROOPS & VETERANS HELPED

Launched Veteran Welcome Home Program 2014:

6,500 VETERAN PROJECTS COMPLETED

With a 100% volunteer staff, we ensure that 90% of all funding is used to fund our programs – not to line our pockets!



*We are actively seeking sponsors, donations and volunteers for all events.
Please contact Sherri Einhaus, sdeinhaus@comcast.net if interested.*



Donate

Many of the "wish list" and "welcome home" items we provide are expensive and available only from specialized suppliers. We are in need of funds to purchase these specialty items.

Conduct a Collection Drive

There are many ways to conduct collection drives for needed items throughout your community, church, school or workplace.

Donations are accepted for delivery at our Operations Center located at 1200 Lebanon Rd., West Mifflin PA 15122.

Hours: **Tuesdays & Thursdays** 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Be a Sponsor or Partner

We are always in need of sponsors and partners who donate their goods or services to our organization or help to sponsor fund-raising events with monetary contributions.

Learn More About Us

Visit www.OperationTroopAppreciation.org for more information and to make a secure on-line donation.

Or send a check payable to OTA to:

Operation Troop Appreciation

PO Box 18052

Pittsburgh, PA 15236



**COMMITTED TO OUR COURAGEOUS MEMBERS
OF THE US MILITARY, PAST AND PRESENT**