



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

THE Eagle

Winter 2026

MOMENT WITH MO

As we embark on our 22nd year,

we have much to be thankful for and are excited to share highlights of the past year and exciting things to come.



After three years of renovation, we finally held the grand opening celebration of our new headquarters, September 20th! What a wonderful day we had, thanking the donors who helped fund the project, the volunteers who donated a lot of "DIY" hours and the contractors who brought our vision to life. And we had the joy of welcoming home our founding CEO **Kristen Holloway-Querriera**, sharing all that we've accomplished since 2004 in our basements to our own building!

And as we dealt with working around dry wall installers, electricians, plumbers and flooring experts, we continued to help a great number of troops and veterans.

To round off the year we resurrected our Annual Veteran Holiday Celebration on December 13th, hosting 50 veterans and families for a day of Santa photos, kids crafts, gifts and a holiday meal.

This year brings even more events for our local military and veterans as well as the public at large. Be sure to check out our 2026 Calendar of Events and plan to join us!

Finally, thank you – to our donors, for continuing to support generously, and to our volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure our troops and veterans are well taken care of. We are truly blessed and appreciate you every day!

We are honored to support our troops, from those deployed and those who have returned home, we continue to be committed to the courageous members of the US Military.



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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.

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

The grand opening of OTA's new headquarters was held on Saturday, September 20, 2017 Pennsylvania Avenue, West Mifflin, PA 15122. A ribbon cutting was held after a color guard ceremony followed by a program that honored soldiers and veterans, thanked volunteers as well as those who have donated to OTA over the last 20 years and, most recently, those who helped fund the building restoration. Guests were able to tour the building and see first hand how the charity completes program activities.

As OTA looks to the future, it hopes to expand its services to reach out to even more troops, veterans and their families, especially now with their new headquarters.

"One of our challenges is securing enough financial support so we can continue our mission of serving our troops and veterans," stated **CEO Orluk**, "because we are an all-volunteer organization, every single fundraising dollar we receive is used to help our troops and veterans, instead of paying for administration salaries."

"We are excited and grateful as we head into the next decade with our new headquarters, as it will meet our growing needs, and the changing needs of our military and veterans for many years to come" she said.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
2025, 4:36PM | P

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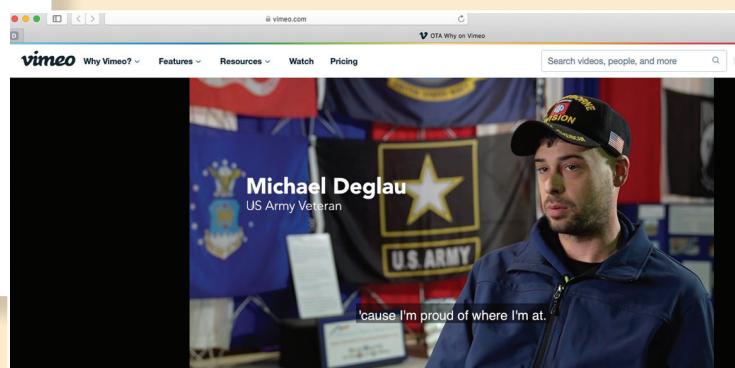
SPORTS FEED FREE

Military nonprofit 'Operation Troop Appreciation' opens new home in West Mifflin

Justin Sutcliffe/Post-Gazette

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://vimeo.com/user20144885/operation-troop-appreciation/video/528406541>



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars and plan to attend these very special OTA Events:

OVERSTOCK EXTRAVAGANZA

**Saturday, March 7 & Sunday March 8 &
Saturday March 21 & Sunday March 22
9 am - 4 pm • OTA Headquarters**

During our building renovation we accumulated so much inventory that we are giving you two opportunities to score some awesome merch!

Between each event, we will re-stock the tables with new items, so plan to attend both! Here's your chance to score some great stuff! We have inventory we can't use for our programs and are making it available to the public.

Make Us An Offer – Like to bargain? Make us an offer we can't refuse and score some cool swag in our flea market section!

There's Something For Everyone!

- Clothing • Tools • Electronics • Household • Automotive



VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB EVENTS

Saturdays

April 11, August 8 and November 21 • 8:30 a.m.

OTA Headquarters

The Veterans Breakfast Club (VBC) is the nation's premier non-profit for connecting veterans with their fellow Americans through inspiring stories of service. We are proud to partner with the VBC for three Veteran Breakfast events bringing local veterans and their supporters to share stories of service while enjoying a great meal! We share the VBC goal to build a nation that understands and values the experiences of our military veterans so that every day is Veterans Day.

TOP RATED CHARITY!

For the 15th consecutive year OTA has reached Top Rated Charity Status at Great Non-Profits! This status is awarded when 10 or more 5 Star Reviews are posted by volunteers, donors or the troops and veterans we serve. We are grateful to have over 350 posted reviews!

DRAFT NATION NFL DRAFT EVENTS

Thursday, April 23



The NFL Draft is being held in Pittsburgh this year! We are honored to be the charity of choice for Draft Nation at their premier draft event! Enjoy a panel of experts reporting on the first round of draft choices, former NFL players, live music, great food and an incredible auction. Proceeds from the event benefit OTA! Look for an announcement soon, as venue and ticket pricing will be available shortly.

Sponsorship opportunities are available! If interested, email Monica Orluk at monica@operationtroopappreciation.org.

ANNUAL PURSE BASH

Saturday, June 20 • Noon - 5 pm • OTA Headquarters

Join us for our 2nd Annual Purse Bash and score a designer hand bag! Tickets are \$30 with 4 numbers, food and beverages.

Additional raffles include our popular "Patriot Box" raffle, American Gift Basket Auction, 50/50, "Pick of the Table" and instant pull tabs



You can help OTA reached Top Rated Charity in 2026 by posting your own 5 Star Review today! Simply click on the link below, scroll to the "Share Your Story" button and write a sentence or two about your experience with OTA:

<https://greatnonprofits.org/org/operation-troop-appreciation>





ANNUAL JEWELRY SALE

Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7 • 9 am - 6 pm

South Park Municipal Center • 2675 Brownsville Road • South Park PA 15129

Our Annual Gently Used Jewelry Sale is back and we have thousands of pieces to choose from! Nothing over \$5! Perfect time to pick up some early Holiday presents or a new piece of bling for yourself!

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY 5K RACE

Sunday, November 8

Hamton Community Park

The 21st Annual Veterans Day 5K Race gets bigger every year! This challenging course is open for runners of all ages and prizes are given to the fastest time in each age group. Walk or run, but plan to attend this wonderful event!

We want you to have fun!

You'll enjoy:

- A scenic course through Hamton Community Park
- Goody Bag items of your choice
- Long sleeve race t-shirt
- Entertainment along the course
- Professional Disc Jockey entertainment by **Life of the Party Productions**
- Awards for the top three finishers in each age group
- Apple pies for the winners (male/female) in each of 13 age groups
- Trophies and awards for top finishers in Overall and Masters categories
- Post-race All American buffet
- Competitive field of runners
- Professional timing services by **Miles of Smiles**
- Unique door prizes

Best of all, the motivation of knowing your participation will help send Holiday Care Packages to our active duty troops serving us around the world.

Click here for more information and to sign up for the race [OTA 5K Race Sign Up](https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/AllisonPark/OPERATIONTROOPAPPRECIATION5K). (<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/AllisonPark/OPERATIONTROOPAPPRECIATION5K>).

We thank you for supporting all our events and remind you that we are always in need of gift baskets, basket items, and gift cards for our basket raffles.

Contact Monica@operationtroopappreciation.org if you would like to contribute.

VETERANS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 13 • (Time TBD)

OTA Headquarters

Our Annual Veterans Holiday is a wonderful open-house event for single veterans and veteran families! Enjoy a holiday meal, photos with Santa, kid activities, entertainment and of course presents!

We also have “**Angel Tree**” opportunities to help us give our kids specific gifts they’ve asked Santa for. If you have or know of a business that would like to host an Angel Tree, please contact sherry@operationtroopappreciation.org and she can provide you with all the details. We greatly appreciate these very special gifts.

If you know of a veteran family who is in need of help, please have them contact Sherry@operationtroopappreciation.org for more information.

The OTA elves can't wait to help Santa give holiday love to our local veterans!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook or check out our website for details as we move close to these dates!



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Feedback from the Brave Troops & Veterans We Serve!

Words can't express how thankful I am for this organization's support of our military unit on deployment. We have a seasoned vet who reached out to them for assistance getting some things we needed and they followed through without hesitation. A huge "thank you" from all of us to not only the folks who run this organization, but the donors and volunteers who make things happen behind the scenes.

– *SGT Hall*



Amazing nonprofit staffed by the most caring volunteers. In my time of need they were the first to step up and help out my family and I.

– *A Grateful Veteran*



Thanks to OTA's willingness and speed we were able to share over 200 holiday stockings with my deployed unit. OTA only needed to know where and how much and had goods on the way immediately. Being away over the holidays is always hard and I know I saw a glimmer of joy in my troops as they were able to gather up some items through these care packages. I'm beyond thankful for the effort they put in to get us these.

– *MSGT Nichols*



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

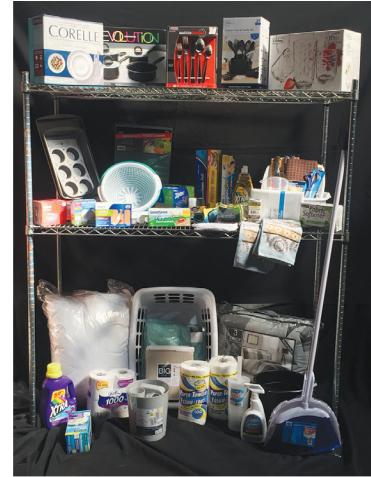
- Body wash
- Men's deodorant
- Men's triple blade razors

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!

OUR VOLUNTEERS WERE VERY BUSY IN 2025!

In addition to navigating through construction chaos, they delivered exceptional service to thousands of troops and veterans!

Active-Duty Troops Helped: 2,429

of Units Served: 23

Veteran & Veteran Families Helped: 262

Total # of Troops Helped: 206,572

Total # of Veterans Helped: 9,205

Total Troops & Veterans: 215,777



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



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

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.

If you would like to conduct a collection drive or to schedule a donation drop off, please send an e-mail to info@operationtroopappreciation.org or call 412-653-1317.

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.

Amazon Support

Did you know that you can purchase items from Amazon directly from our charity donation list? There are several items we frequently purchase to support our Active-Duty Wish List and Veteran Welcome Home programs on the list that you can choose from! Simply copy the URL below into your browser and it will take you to our donation list. Items you select will be added to your Amazon shopping cart and shipped directly to OTA!

<https://a.co/aPCAYHJ>

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
500 Regis Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15236



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.



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