

HEIRTAGE PALMS
VETERANS'
ASSOCIATION

Purpose

- **The HPVA was formed by members of the Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club who served in the U.S. Military or its Allies during time of War or Peace and received an Honorable Discharge**
- **The primary purpose of the HPVA is, through social activities and other fund-raising events, raise funds to assist U.S. military veterans suffering from injuries or disabilities related to their military service**
- **The HPVA also offers financial contributions to existing charitable organizations that provide assistance to U.S. military veterans**
- **The HPVA offers financial support to any activity that perpetuates the memory of any veteran from Southwest Florida who died while in the service of the U.S. Military**

History

- **First, starting as a social organization for HPVA veterans, it quickly began to support local veterans through a few fund-raising activities**
- **Under the leadership of Rich Crawford, HPVA Commander, it was incorporated in 2017 as a Florida 501c3 non-profit organization making donations tax deductible**
- **Since its beginning, HPVA has donated funds, raised mostly from HP residents, to both individuals and organizations (who support SW Florida veterans)**
- **To date, HPVA has donated over \$300,00 to these individuals or organizations**
 - **In every case the individual or organization was fully vetted by the HPVA board of directors**

Examples

- **\$75K to Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs**
 - For three (3) service dogs
- **Their mission is to train medical service dogs to mitigate the challenges associated with PTSD**
- **Cost to train each dog is approximately \$25K and takes from 1 ½ up to 3 years**
- **We named the first dog Freedom, the second dog Cooney (after HPVA'S first commander, Tim Cooney) and the third dog Jackson (after Bob and Jerri Ann Cox's grandson who was preparing for a career n Veterinarian service)**
 - **Previous HP residents, Bob and Jerri Ann Cox had donated approximately ½ of the funds for Freedom and Jackson**
 - **Tim Cooney's family asked for donations to support a service dog, instead of flowers, be sent to HPVA when Tim suddenly passed away**
 - **These donations from Tim's family, friends and HP residents raised approximately \$20K, which was used to fund the second service dog Freedom**

Examples

- **\$32.5K to Hearts & Homes**
- **Their mission is to support homeless veterans and their families who find themselves without the necessities of everyday life**
- **They are committed to empowering these individuals to lift themselves out of poverty and in-turn reach back and help other veterans to do the same**
- **Their philosophy is that low-income veterans should not have to pay more than 30% of their gross income on housing and Hearts and Homes units are priced with this in mind**
- **Their goals are: Provide subsidized housing, provide food and support needed in finding employment, transportation to V.A. clinics, job interviews and to assist veterans in applying for benefits**

Examples

- **\$20K to Hodges University Scholarship Program**
- **Their mission is to provide a welcoming and informative environment where veteran students and dependents receive support for funding their education and adjusting to student and civilian life**
- **They provide a dedicated Veterans Service Center on each campus with a full-time staff member available to assist veterans with education questions and referrals to community resources**
- **VA work study positions on each campus**
- **Priority parking spaces for veterans**
- **Ongoing events on campus and offsite during the school year**

Examples

- **\$20K to Home Base**
- **A Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program they operate the first and one of the largest private-sector programs in the nation dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for veterans, service members and their families through world-class wellness, education and research**
- **It's a sad fact that 1 in 3 returning Post 911 veterans suffer from invisible wounds and tragically 1 active-duty member and 20 veterans die by suicide every day**
- **Home Base set up in SW Florida in 2014 and have assisted over 500 families and over 200 veterans have completed the program**

Examples

- **\$10K to PGA HOPE Foundation**
- **Their goal is to introduce golf to Veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being**
- **Golf lessons are offered at NO cost to veterans of SW Florida by South Florida's PGA Professionals**
- **Learning and playing golf is a proven activity that has helped thousands of military Veterans assimilate back into their community through the social interaction that the game of golf provides**

Examples

- **\$5.0K to John and his family**
- **John, a marine veteran, was a member of the HP Wait staff**
- **Was diagnosed with a severe case of pneumonia and later developed sepsis**
- **The pneumonia apparently caused a heart infection**
- **He was the primary breadwinner; no income was coming in and he did not have insurance**
- **HPVA assisted in both financial support and was advised by Rich Crawford and Fred DeCotis on several organizations available to help veterans**
- **Unfortunately, John passed away due to his medical issues**

Examples

- **Solo Rider for HP Veteran Barry**
- **Barry, a Vietnam Veteran, lost both legs while serving in the US Army in Vietnam**
- **When HPVA became aware that Barry would love to play golf but unable, the decision was made to purchase a “Solo Rider” which has a swivel seat that allows for him participate in golf without standing – golf clubs are carried in the front to provide easy access**
- **After validating with Bob Kelly, the Solo Rider was presented to Barry and he was then able to play in the 2019 HP Veterans golf tournament**

Examples

- **\$3.0K to the Spirit of 45**
 - **Honors WWII veterans and their spouses with dinner and entrainment from Guns and Hoses**
 - **Sadly, last year was the final event**
- **\$2.0K to a SW Veteran**
 - **Needed a trike for mobility**
- **\$1.0K to Fort Myers American Legion Post 38**
 - **To help fund the portable Vietnam Wall when it was in Naples**
- **\$2.0K to the American Legion Riders**
 - **For Christmas presents of veteran's children in Lehigh Acres**

Examples

- **\$1.9K to the VFW**
 - **For Michael, a disabled SW Florida Veteran**
 - **To help assist this local disabled veteran affected by COVID 19 and having a tough time meeting his rent expenses**
 - **Michael wrote HPVA a very thoughtful letter of thanks saying in part “I don’t know what would have happen to me and my family if it were not for your generous check that absolutely saved us from becoming homeless**
- **\$1.9K to the American Legion**
 - **For a disabled veteran who needed a new floor in his mobile home**
- **\$1.0K to Cypress Lake High School**
 - **To support a memorial to Corporal Thomas Jardin, a Cypress Lake High School graduate who was killed in action**

Summary

- **As mentioned in the opening comments, with the generous support of the HP Community and staff, HPVA has been able to donate over \$300,000 in support of SW Florida Veterans**
 - **Will probably be closer to \$350,000 after our recent golf tournament and the Big 250 raffle**
- **We have shown most, but not all, of the individuals and organizations that we have been able to help**
- **HPVA board members both past and present thanks everyone for all that we have been able to accomplish**