

# WARRIOR BEACH RETREAT, INC

## "Where Heroes Gather"

Letters from the April 2021 Mini Retreat

To: Panama City Beach, Florida's Community

We had an amazing Retreat the outpour of support that we were able to experience to all of the Warriors and their Spouses was truly unbelievable; if only the rest of the world had the same sentiment as your awesome community has the world would be truly a better place. Just a quick thank you to all of the venues that support our retreat this week.

Sheraton Panama City Beach Golf & Spa Resort "Tides"  
Saltwater Grill  
Deep Sea Fishing with Capt. John F. Law  
Triple J Steaks & Seafood  
Paparazzi Gourmet Deli  
Sea Screamer  
Capt. Anderson's  
J Michael's Restaurant  
Bayou Bill's Crab House

Each one of the aforementioned establishments were top notch and took care of our every needs this is such an amazing place to visit so we can only imagine how it feels to live here may God continue to Bless and Cover Panama City Beach Florida and all it has to offer.

Special Thank you to (WJHG/WECP) for doing two cover stories for our retreat it put a very special touch on it that we will be able to share and enlighten lives of other Warriors and Civilians alike.

To the Phillip, Linda and Jonathan Cope we Love and appreciate the Charge the Lord has given to you in support of all Servicemembers and their Spouses giving them a place and a time for some much needed healing.

Very Respectfully  
"Jimmie & Sharika Blockett"

Linda Cope, President  
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Greetings and Blessings to the community of Panama City Beach and to the volunteers with the Warrior Beach Retreat from Debbi & Craig Prine.

My wife and I are attempting to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the numerous individuals and businesses that provided us with such a memorable and enjoyable weekend. Although I understand how fruitless this letter is in trying to describe our feelings concerning this retreat, especially when compared to enjoyment we both received, we feel as though an attempt to express our heartfelt appreciation is the very least, we can do. Everyone made this Warrior Retreat exceed our wildest expectations, and the memories we have will remain for the remainder of our lifetimes.

I apologize in advance if I should accidentally leave out anyone or any business, as I wanted to specifically thank all parties associated with the Warrior Retreat. The outpouring of Love and Appreciation we all received was overwhelming and the entire community displayed the compassion and patriotism of previous heroic generations. Thus, below are specific “Thank You” and “You are “Greatly Appreciated” annotations, but please remember that Everyone in Panama City Beach made this extraordinary weekend possible.

Panama City Beach Sheraton Golf & Spa Resort: From the manager to the entire staff, you all were wonderful. The accommodations were excellent, the amenities are fabulous, and most impressive was the care and compassion displayed by literally every employee. All employees went out of their way to ensure that we had any & every need fulfilled and did so with a warm greeting and smile. Several times throughout our stay we had employees come up and ask if there was anything that they could do to be of assistance along with every employee that we would pass would extend a warm and friendly salutation, which created a peaceful and welcoming environment. Additionally, each morning the breakfast was delicious and the staff very attentive to any requests. These mornings set the stage for wonderful days spent in the community.

Saltwater Grill: This was our first group get together and having it at your venue was “Impeccable”. Your restaurant and staff provided the perfect setting for all of us to get to know each other and feel comfortable in new surroundings. The staff were professional, patient, and attentive. The food was delicious and a specific thank you to the chefs for a job done beyond anticipations. Additionally, the deserts were out of this world!!!!

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Captain John Law, Charter Guide. There aren't enough words to describe the memories made while on your charter!!! The professional knowledge and skill displayed in exceptionally difficult weather conditions was astounding. Joshua was such a blessing, as his patience and expertise was tested with the weather and us veterans, and he performed exemplary. The absolute highlight of the trip was NOT the catching of so many fish nor watching your skill with the boat maneuvering, but rather the personal time you spent with us in conversation and most importantly the sharing of your “Testimony” and “Faith”. This was an amazing start to a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to going back out on your charter!!!

Triple J Steakhouse & Seafood: A seamless choice end to a remarkable first day. The food was delightful, and the staff were remarkable. The delicious fresh bread started out the outstanding dining experience, which did not end until the final bite of desert was taken!!! The Grouper was cooked and seasoned perfectly, and everything was wonderful. This also was an ideal choice of venues for the conclusion of our 1<sup>st</sup> day in your wonderful city, and the private area you provided us was exactly what was needed for us to share the stories of our fantastic day.

Paparazzi's Gourmet Deli: Wow, this was the answer to a conversation my wife & I had on the way up to your city. “Wonder if there are and Deli's like we used to visit, where the food was like we grew up with”??? Appealing to look at and Delicious to eat is what we received at this restaurant. This is Italian Deli Food of yesteryear!!! Authentic Italian Cuisine mixed with current deli delights. The staff were ever so helpful, as it was easy to tell that they enjoyed working at such a wonderful establishment. Smiles were the norm, from employees to guests. However, even with such a great lunch and my taste buds exploding, the really exceptional part was the owner, John Trubia. John spent a lot of quality time getting to know us, and genuinely cared for all of us veterans. John even shared part of his past time serving with the NYPD during 9-11. This was an amazing retelling of those events from someone that was there, on scene, saving others' lives!!! I could go on & on about this luncheon and our time talking, but let's suffice it to say that I **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** visiting this establishment for a great meal and get to know the incredible owners, John & Kitti Trubia, and you won't regret doing either!!!

Sea Screamer: First and Foremost, I want to say a direct thank you to a fellow Veteran, Andy, owner of Sea Screamer. Although we only spent a few moments together before departing on this enjoyable boat ride and tour, there is a bond between servicemen that registers immediately. Although we fought on different soil in different time periods, we are Brothers in Arms & I appreciate your sacrifices!!! This boat ride and tour was very relaxing and insightful, and if you want to get to know P.C.B., then this is an excursion to book. The captain & 1<sup>st</sup> Mate were knowledgeable, entertaining, and friendly. This is a great family trip and something that you will want to book in advance due to its popularity.

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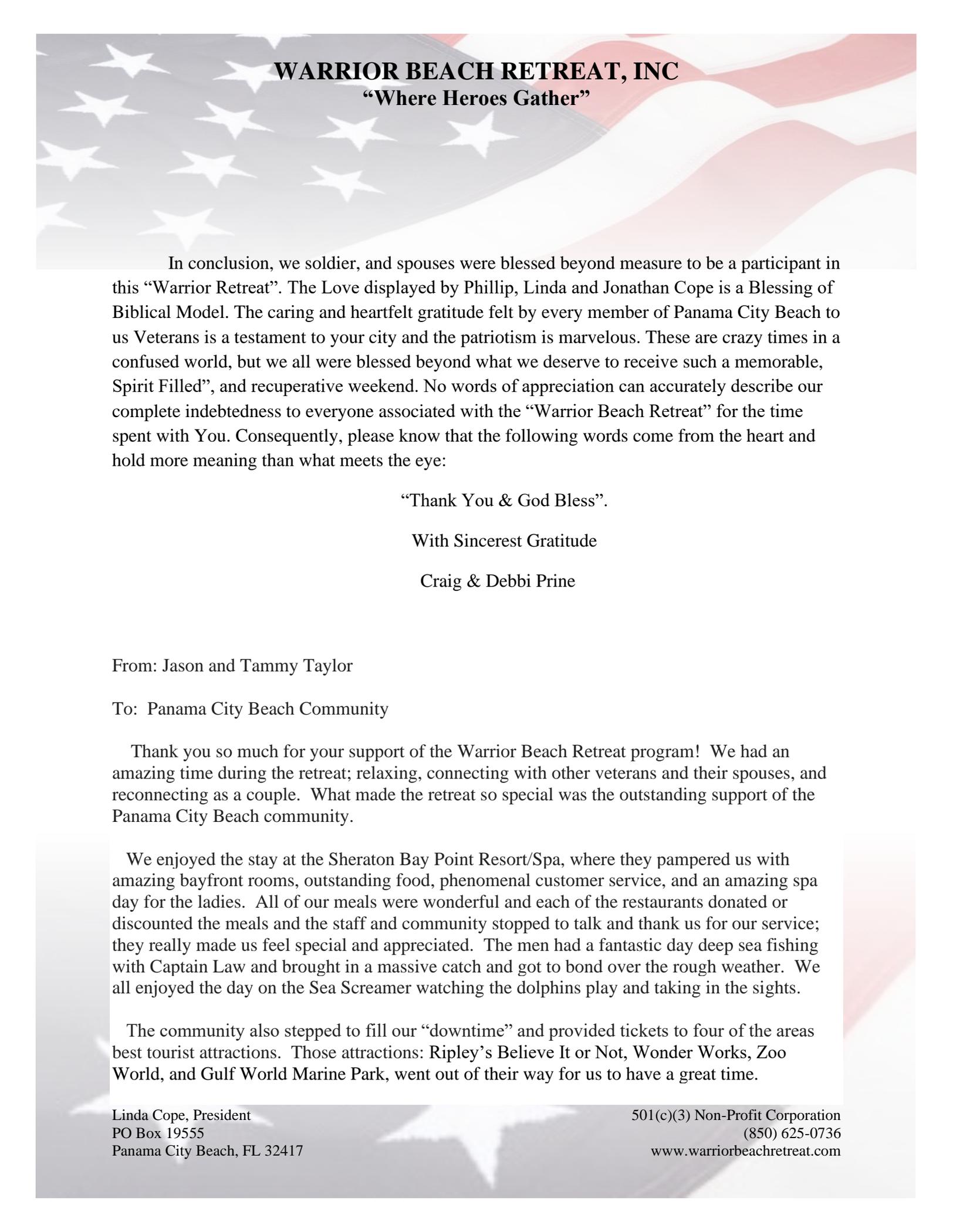
J. Michaels Restaurant: Wow, talk about a fun place to dine!!! The life and energy of this place is complimented by the unique décor. The ideal place for a casual and unpretentious lunch, as the place reminded me of “Cheers”: Where Everybody Knows Your Name”. I believe that this would be considered by the residents as the “Local Hot Spot”, as it would be for me. Food was tasty, service was prompt and friendly, and atmosphere relaxed. To top the experience off, we made friends with some locals, and one of them was a retired preacher that prayed for us before we chowed down. Quite a blessed and memorable experience!!!

Captain Andersons: I think that the best way to sum up our visit there would be “O.M.G.”!!! (Oh My God !!!) Wow, what a treat!!! Impeccable service, amazing atmosphere, and out of this world food does not do this place justice. If there is only one restaurant that you are going to visit while in PCB, this is it!!! The dinner was fabulous, and the “Florentine Cup” desert was inconceivably marvelous. I am still not 100% sure what this desert was made of, but if I had to describe it, I would say that it is a “Touch of Heaven in a Delicious Edible Bowl”.

Bayou Bills Crab House. An experience worth the drive. Upon walking up the stairs and seeing the live alligators to the crab legs on the table, this was an eye-popping experience. The appetizers were scrumptious and the main course even better. The service was swift and alert with personality to spare. If you are looking for crab legs, then this is the place!!!

Wow, I think that I may have gained 10 more pounds thinking of all the delicious food we encountered in your amazing city. You put the “Eat in Retreat”!!! I cannot say enough kind words of appreciation to all these restaurants, their staff, and their willingness to take on such a large motley crew such as us. You were all amazing in your own special way, and we eagerly anticipate our next experience in your wonderfully hospitable and friendly city.

Additionally, I would like to personally thank WJHG / WECP for taking the time to interview us to promote the Warrior Retreat. Due to the time and effort of the Cope Family, their volunteers, and the numerous businesses, this “Warrior Retreat” is a true blessing, and your willingness to promote it on your T.V. channel is a great service to the men and women that serve this great country. We salute your Patriotism and appreciate your efforts.



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In conclusion, we soldier, and spouses were blessed beyond measure to be a participant in this “Warrior Retreat”. The Love displayed by Phillip, Linda and Jonathan Cope is a Blessing of Biblical Model. The caring and heartfelt gratitude felt by every member of Panama City Beach to us Veterans is a testament to your city and the patriotism is marvelous. These are crazy times in a confused world, but we all were blessed beyond what we deserve to receive such a memorable, Spirit Filled”, and recuperative weekend. No words of appreciation can accurately describe our complete indebtedness to everyone associated with the “Warrior Beach Retreat” for the time spent with You. Consequently, please know that the following words come from the heart and hold more meaning than what meets the eye:

“Thank You & God Bless”.

With Sincerest Gratitude

Craig & Debbi Prine

From: Jason and Tammy Taylor

To: Panama City Beach Community

Thank you so much for your support of the Warrior Beach Retreat program! We had an amazing time during the retreat; relaxing, connecting with other veterans and their spouses, and reconnecting as a couple. What made the retreat so special was the outstanding support of the Panama City Beach community.

We enjoyed the stay at the Sheraton Bay Point Resort/Spa, where they pampered us with amazing bayfront rooms, outstanding food, phenomenal customer service, and an amazing spa day for the ladies. All of our meals were wonderful and each of the restaurants donated or discounted the meals and the staff and community stopped to talk and thank us for our service; they really made us feel special and appreciated. The men had a fantastic day deep sea fishing with Captain Law and brought in a massive catch and got to bond over the rough weather. We all enjoyed the day on the Sea Screamer watching the dolphins play and taking in the sights.

The community also stepped to fill our “downtime” and provided tickets to four of the areas best tourist attractions. Those attractions: Ripley’s Believe It or Not, Wonder Works, Zoo World, and Gulf World Marine Park, went out of their way for us to have a great time.

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To say Warrior Beach Retreat puts the eat in retreat is an understatement. The wonderful restaurants that donated/discounted our meals; Saltwater Grill, Triple J Steaks & Seafood, Paparazzi Gourmet Deli, Captain Anderson's, J Michael's Restaurant, and Bayou Bill's Crab House treated us as royalty and I recommend all of them to anyone visiting the area.

Finally, thank you to the Cope family, Linda, Phillip and Jonathan. Their heart and trust in God to create the Warrior Beach Retreat in the aftermath of Josh's injuries is a testimony in love and compassion that so few have today. They worked so incredibly hard to make the retreat a success and they surpassed all expectations! The drive they have to get donations for door prizes and gifts for each of us, I thank them or the businesses that donated enough.

Thank you Panama City Beach, from the bottom of our hearts. We'll be back for sure!

V/R

Team Taylor  
(both USAF Retired)

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