



WARRIOR BEACH RETREAT, INC
“Where Heroes Gather”

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Our Fall retreat was an incredible event. We hosted 10 combat wounded warriors and spouses from 3 different states. We believe that the impact that these couples experienced was only possible by the love and support of this community and our sponsors. Your time, efforts and donations are truly a blessing.

We look forward to great year in 2023. Your support is vital to continue our mission to reach out to our nation’s heroes with hope and healing.

Testimonies from Wounded Warriors – Fall Retreat 2022

Greetings,

We want to personally thank all who had a hand in promoting and coordinating the Warrior Beach Retreat and its festivities. Bay County holds such a special place in our hearts and minds. It is, hands down, the most patriotic town we have ever had the pleasure of visiting. We were astonished at the community's support, from the parade, warriors' ceremony, restaurants, and hotel. We are grateful to all of the residents that came out on Thursday and lined the streets for the parade. It brings tears to our eyes to know that Americans still truly care. Many veterans never got the chance to be honored when they left theater/retired. This is what makes the ceremony and parade so incredibly special. It shows the veterans that what they did and sacrificed was worth it. Thank you just doesn't seem enough. The Cope family and Warrior Beach Retreat are helping change lives across the country and they can't do it without the support from such a great county.

Blessings,

Retired SSG Joseph Lowery and Christen Lowery



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Dear Sponsors of the Warrior Beach Retreat and the local community:

On behalf of Mr. Calvin Jennings and SFC (R) Amanda Gunn-Jennings, we would like to thank you for sponsoring our Fall 2022, Warrior Beach Retreat. Your generous donations allowed us to enjoy time with other Veterans and their caregivers. We were taken excellent care of, and this time together enriched our marriage. Your support allowed us to stay at the elegant Bluegreen Bayside Resort & Spa. It was such a fantastic, safe place for us to connect. Also, local restaurants and incredibly gracious folks paid for our food during the retreat. We cannot thank them enough for the excellent establishments and great food selections.

On October 27, 2022, Warrior Beach Retreat sponsored a parade for Veterans and caregivers. It was so beautiful to see locals waving the U.S. flags and thanking us for our service. My husband and I were overwhelmed with the love we felt. We greatly appreciate St. Andrews United Methodist Church for hosting the ceremony and dinner. Additionally, we would like to thank the Sheriff's department for escorting us throughout the retreat. In closing, I thank Philip, Linda, and Jonathan Cope for their tireless efforts in support of Veterans and their families, we believe God placed them on this mission. This is the first retreat that my husband and I have attended together. The bar is exceptionally high for any future retreats that we will attend. Warrior Beach Retreat has laid the foundation for us to gain balance and healing. Thanks again to all the volunteers, sponsors, and locals for making this experience a success for us.

Sincerely,
Calvin and Amanda Jennings

Linda Cope, President
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Panama City Beach, FL 32417

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The News Herald Editor

Recently my wife and I had the absolute privilege of attending Warrior Beach Retreat. We were greeted with such warm and welcoming staff and volunteers. We were treated with gratitude and support. We had an amazing time getting away from the stresses of everyday life. I highly recommend this retreat to every veteran. I would like to thank the community for really showing up for us in a special way. We were showered with gifts, spa treatments, letters from local children, police escorts and so much delicious food. The most incredible part of this experience had to have been the parade. Seeing how much the community cares and supports us, the waving flags, the broadcasted music, the soldiers saluting, and flyover was an experience i'll never forget. A special thank you to Phillip and Linda Cope for really putting their hearts into this retreat for us

Forever Thankful,
SGT Joel Harden

To the Panama City Beach community and The News Herald. Alongside the AWESOME treatment my wife and I received from the Warrior Beach Retreat. We would like to take this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation for all the support the community showed during our week on the Warrior Beach Retreat. Everything was perfect and I know and a big part of that was due to the volunteers in the community as volunteers play an integral part in making things as planned. Your time, talents, and efforts were needed and very much appreciated. Thank you once again.

What the retreat meant to my wife and I is that we needed this one on one time to reflect. Reflect on life and every aspect of our lives. How do we become better people. We loved that this retreat was led by God because you felt the spirit of God every step of the way. It was the best retreat hands down that my wife and I ever attended and we've been to plenty. Phillip and Linda Cope are great people. Being able to share ideas and pick the brains of other veterans is always a good vibe. This retreat is definitely 5 stars.



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Thanks again to the Panama City Beach Community once again for a job well done. We will definitely be back to visit.

V/R Dereemus and Le’Anda Roney

The News Herald Editor,

We wanted to take a moment to thank Panama City Beach and the surrounding area for the unparalleled hospitality and support during our recent Warrior Beach Retreat. Over this week we were treated to the best of everything: food, fishing, sun, spa, food, smiles, waves, and more food! The Cope Family, Philip, Linda & Jonathan are outstanding hosts and ambassadors of your area. Their organization gives combat veterans, like my wife Tammy & I, an opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of home and to escape the onslaught of thoughts, feelings, and responsibilities for a few days. We can’t possibly thank each and every person who showed support by waving their flags or the smiles, waves, and tears during this event but, we greatly appreciate you. The local businesses who help make this event a success are numerous and we hope no one is omitted from our list:

Captain Anderson’s

Jubilee Deep Sea Fishing

Texas Roadhouse

Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort

Tim Allen Photography

Ulta Beauty

Paradigm Salon & Spa

J. Michael’s Restaurant

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Saint Andrew United Methodist Church

Fatty Patty’s Southern Café

Saltwater Grill

Paparazzi’s Gourmet Deli

Oakland Terrace Club House

Bayou Bills Crab House

Guld World Marine Park

Zoo World

Wonderworks

Ripley’s Believe It or Not

Cobra Adventure Park

Sweet Frog Premium Frozen Yogurt

Waterworx Car Wash

I’m sure there are others I have missed but, our most sincere thank you to each and every one. This event touches every Vet and their spouse in ways we can’t fully explain and it’s a wonderful way to reconnect. Again, we are very appreciative of the love poured out over this week-long event and we could only wish every veteran would get an opportunity to experience that feeling.

Sincerely

Jason & Tammy Taylor

US Air Force (retired)

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To Whom it Concerns:

My husband and I had the honor and privilege to attend the Warrior Beach Retreat October 25th – October 31st, and it was a wonderful and relaxing experience for us. From the moment we arrived at Warrior Beach Retreat, we were showered with love and gratitude from the Cope family and all of the volunteers. They did an amazing job making us feel loved and appreciated for the sacrifices that we made and continue to make as my husband heals from his injuries of war. Every meal was wonderful, and it was a great time to connect to other warriors and caregivers and to understand that we all share a lot in common with our daily struggles with this new normal we are living. Warrior Beach Retreat created a space to refresh, renew, and connect.

All the volunteers and community honored our veterans and their spouses immeasurably from police escort, to home cooked meals, surprise gifts, and a ceremony at a local church with a fly over from Air Force jets. Every detail was thought of carefully. I can say firsthand, that I experienced the genuine love and light of Christ on our retreat. It was beautiful to pray and be prayed for amongst other believers. Unlike so many other organizations, they are proud to show their faith and to share the love of Jesus. I believe above all that is what sets Warrior Beach Retreat apart, and I would recommend any combat warrior and their spouse to attend this retreat. Thank you to all that made this retreat possible and for all the community that supported and cheered at the parade! Your presence made us feel like royalty. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We are eternally grateful for our time in Panama City Beach and at Warrior Beach Retreat!

Sincerely,

Jenna & Issac Malone



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First of all, let me start out by saying thank you!! A million times over thank you! When I think about Panama City, I think of home – but I got to experience the city in a whole new way! I grew up in Bay County and I could not be prouder to call this place home. Every time we got in the truck to go somewhere and were lead with a Sherriff’s escort, we felt untouchable and proud to have served this country. We rode up and down the streets to see the community really gathering, individuals taking precious time out of their days to salute and thank us, it’s a feeling I cannot put into words. They didn’t know who anyone of us were but when they saw our convoy of flags flying, they showed up and showed out! For some of us we are fighting a never-ending battle with scars both physical and not, and we struggle daily to find peace, but I can safely say we all found a pocket of peace this week, and it will stay with us a lifetime. From the moment we arrived at the resort, we were showered with unconditional love. You would have never known the Welcome Dinner was a room full of strangers, instant friendships were formed on day one. Being amongst these men and woman and sharing stories gave me the ability to share a side of me that I can’t normally share in my day-to-day life. I’d be lying if I said I didn’t cry myself to sleep the first night reading all the sweet cards from the elementary students across county. Reading these letters from today’s youth really put in perspective for me that the reality of what we all did and what I went through, matters; the sacrifices we vets made, were not in vain. This week was an emotional rollercoaster in the best way possible. Each day was an adventure, and for the first time in years I can honestly say, I was able to relax and enjoy each day making new friends and spending quality time with my wife. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the Fall 2022 Warrior Beach Retreat! There is so much that can be said about the wonderful week we spent in Panama City Beach relaxing, fellowshiping with other vets and their care takers and getting some much needed one-one-one time in our marriage.



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I don't think we will ever be able to fully express the gratitude and appreciation we feel for the Cope Family, Jerry Tabatt, Tim Bentley, the Bluegreen's Bayside Resort & Spa, the countless volunteers, and the entire Bay County community for the overwhelming amount of love support that was shown to this group of Veterans. To say we felt like royalty the entire time, would be an understatement; an entire community took time to “Spread The Love” and we felt every bit of it. We came together as strangers and went home with new extended family and friends for life. It is our greatest hope that every United States Veteran gets to experience a retreat like this.

Forever grateful,
Cpl. Freightlin & Caitlin Cox

The Warrior Beach Retreat was so many things we didn't even know we needed or would receive. Wow is all we can say. It completely exceeded any expectations we had going into it.

As parents to a large family, it was so wonderful to spend time away, just the two of us with the most amazing new friends. Instant family due to the nature of gathering with other veteran couples who have experienced so many of the same things. That time was priceless.

So much appreciation and pure love and gifts were lavished on us throughout our week that we were left speechless. What an amazing community of people. What an amazing family, the Copes, for putting together such a wonderful team and the God-filled opportunity for healing, refreshing and safety!

We are so grateful. The people of PCB will always hold a dear place in our hearts from our time there at warrior beach retreat.

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