



WARRIOR BEACH RETREAT, INC
“Where Heroes Gather”

Testimonies for the Spring 2022 Retreat

To all parties involved,

My wife and I attended the 2022 Spring retreat this past month. We cannot possibly thank the staff, volunteers and city enough for the life changing experience! It was an opportunity to let-go of a lot of resentment and emotional baggage I had carried over all these years, as well as further kindle our marriage together.

It had not become apparent to me how well needed a homecoming was until I found myself choking up during the parade. It was an incredible show of support, patriotism and country I had not seen since the early years post the 9/11 tragedy that forever changed America. I was truly blessed to be in the company of such patriots.

The group of veterans within the retreat had connected positively right off the bat and within the next day had already exchanged numbers. We discussed our war only a little, which is quite fine for the majority of us. We did share prayers and confide in one another our own personal battles we had been facing, of course this was up to the veterans themselves.

The Cope family is phenomenal and every attention towards detail was relevant in the logistics of movement, agenda and sweet little reminders of how important we are for served our country. In fact, upon our initial arrival most had a real red carpet treatment, honestly, laying the red carpet down to rental cars in the airport. When we first arrived at the Sheraton, there were flowers, chocolates, cards and other gifts that had been kindly donated.

The entire experience was well-needed and couldn't have possibly been any better. The bonds that were created will last a lifetime and we found ourselves truly humbled every single day we were there, I found it hard to wipe the smile from my face upon departure.

Once again, thank you Panama City, the Copes, the many volunteers and the donors for making this one even in a lifetime experience unforgettable.

Sincerely,

US Army SSG Robbie and Katie Sheets

Linda Cope, President
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To whom it may concern,

My husband, Joseph Seward, and I attended the March retreat. It was amazing, and it was so well needed. All of the families got along and became friends.

To be able to come to a place to just relax and to be able to meet people that understand what we have gone thru is just priceless. Being able to share stories and to bond is priceless. Having people that care about my husband and I on how we feel and make sure we are taken care of is priceless.

Not everyone gets to come to the retreat, and to be chosen to attend is a very humbling feeling. The experience with the parade and the ceremony with the town was amazing. All the veterans that shook my husband's hand and wanting to thank him for his service, but we were thanking them for their service. We all were there for one reason, and that is for appreciation of God and Country. The love and respect that we felt was truly amazing.

Thank you for the experience. We will never forget.

US Army SGT Joseph and Stephanie Seward

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Warrior Beach Couples Retreat did not disappoint

My husband, Army SFC Joie Williams and I attended this amazing Warriors Beach couples retreat. Soon as our plane lands we were welcomed to Panama City Florida. This retreat is absolutely awesome, we felt so honored, This was the best retreat ever. We connected with a lot of good people, our veterans and wives definitely deserve it. The restaurants, Sheraton Panama City Beach Golf & Spa and beauty salons, just everywhere we went was just outstanding.

It was a reset for us, we really needed that trip. I want to give a very special thank you to Panama City Beach, Florida, Philip and Linda Cope, Jonathan Cope, Jerry & Norma Tabatt, Tim & Teresa Bentley, Lynn Haven United Methodist Church and Us Army Colonel Gregory D. Gadson.

Annette Williams

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Patriotism, Hospitality & Relaxation

Our week at Warrior Beach Retreat is summed up in those 3 words!! We were honored to be selected to attend Warrior Beach Retreat and to be able to experience the generosity of the many people and businesses in Panama City Beach. Warrior Beach Retreat allowed us to meet and form relationships with other Warrior families and for our Veterans that is essential. The highlight of the Retreat is the parade and that is where the citizens of Panama City Beach really shine. Taking time out of their busy lives to show respect and honor to our Warriors is very humbling. Seeing people all of ages, other Veterans, small children, members of the local police & fire departments and business owners & their employees lining the streets of the parade route was an extreme symbol of Patriotism and it makes us even proud to be a military family for our Country. Thank you to the Cope Family as well as the other staff of Warrior Beach Retreat. Thank you to the City of Panama City Beach for your hospitality. May God Bless all of you with prosperity in 2022 and in the years to come.

Joel & Peggy Alexander
Steelville, Missouri

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Bay’s hospitality for injured vets leaves lasting impression

Our names are Scott and Kari Whitfield, we attended this year’s Warrior Beach Retreat at the beginning of March. I needed to write sooner unfortunately life gets in the way. I will start from the top in thanking those that made this possible. First, the Cope Family and staff for their dedication to give back to those who served. Sheraton Panama City Beach Golf and spa resort for generously making it affordable for WBR to hold the retreats there. To the staff at Sheraton for the kindness and hospitality during our week stay. Captain Charlie Paprocki and Jubilee fishing staff for an awesome fishing experience. From my wife she thanks the Serenity by the Sea Spa and the Salon for her pampering. To the restaurants that opened your doors and filled our bellies, we want to thank you for the weight gain. The entertainment businesses that allowed us free entry to explore and unwind thank you. Last but defiantly not lease, Panama City residence and first responders. Your patriotism was hard to process during the parade. The residents to come out to thanks us by standing on the road welcoming us to your city is hard to explain the emotions stirring inside us. We did not believe being paraded around town would be emotional. We laughed it off when they gave us a box of tissue before we started. We were proven wrong. To see a man on a balcony on a high rise saluting us still gives me goose bumps even as I write this. The NSA base to see sailors saluting us as be passed by broke my levy. I do not know if this will ever reach a woman on the side of the road in a chair crying painfully. If it was due to you losing one of your own, I want to thank you for supporting us that made it home. May the Lord bring you peace in your loss. The night ended at Lynn Haven United Methodist Church that opened their doors and hearts. I want to thank Todd and Angel Herendeen and Tim Allen Photography for sharing our table and your stories. I hope I did not forget anyone.

SCOTT WHITFIELD
VETERAN RESTART MINISTRY



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Bay County’s patriotism shines at Warrior Beach Retreat

It is an incredible privilege to be chosen to be part of the Warrior Beach Retreat. Philip and Linda Cope truly have a heart for the veteran family; as well as does the community. We have not lived or visited a place this is more patriotic than Bay County and the surrounding area.

It is just amazing to get to come and be a part of something that blesses you but also gives you the opportunity to bless in return. Warrior Beach Retreat is one of the very few organizations for veterans and their families that are doing it the right way.

The support from the community is unparalleled and to be a recipient of such an honor and gratitude is humbling and greatly appreciated. Blessings to all of you.

Retired Army SSgt. Joseph Lowery and Christen Lowery
Prattville, Alabama

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My husband and I want to say thank you to Panama City and its surrounding communities for hosting the March 2022 Warrior Beach Retreat. We were overwhelmed by the show of support from your community. From the restaurants to the hotel to the local businesses offering entertainment to the volunteers who assisted to the sponsors who covered expenses to the people lining the parade route to the church who hosted the ceremony, everyone was so welcoming to us.

When our loved ones come home from war injured, our lives change. Life as we knew it is gone forever. We have to embrace the new normal. For many of us, that's a new life focused on frequent medical appointments.

Getting a chance to escape from that, even for a few days, is so refreshing. We were also blessed getting to meet with fellow veterans and caregivers who walk similar paths. We got to talk to those who can relate, got to share stories, and share resources. We got to make connections that can last a lifetime.

Thank you for all of your support! We truly appreciate it. We have never seen an area embrace veterans like all you do. You brought tears to our eyes and made our hearts burst feeling the outpouring of love. We will never forget it.

Robert and Teresa Osburn (Alabama)