

WARRIOR BEACH RETREAT, INC

“Where Heroes Gather”

2023 NEWSLETTER

The 2023 Fall & Spring retreats were a huge success, thanks to the volunteers and the donations made by local businesses and individuals. In total, 26 couples participated in the retreats this year. This included two mini retreats held in Rosemary Beach, FL. and Sandestin, FL. which help strengthen marriages.

We appreciate the support you have given to make these life-changing retreats possible for our nation’s heroes. Since the pandemic, hotel rooms are no longer donated. Your faithful support is vital for us continue the mission that God has given us.

We were inspired to help combat wounded warriors after our son, Retired Army SGT Joshua Cope, lost both his legs above the knee and wounded his hand by an IED blast in Baghdad, Iraq. These retreats not only provide a venue for healing but bring our community together to give honor and respect for their service and sacrifice.

Donations are tax deductible. One way to donate is by check, made payable to Warrior Beach Retreat, Inc and mailed to PO Box 19555, Panama City Beach, FL 32417. Another way is to visit our website @ www.warriorbeachretreat.org and click on the Donate button located at the top right corner of our home page.

See the following testimonies submitted by couples who attended the two major retreats held in Panama City Beach, FL.

God Bless,
Philip, Linda & Jonathan Cope
Founders

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My husband and I would like to thank the whole community for everything you did for the warriors and their caregivers while on the Warrior Beach Retreat. When my husband and I arrived, we weren't exactly on speaking terms, but after me going to the Serenity by the Sea Spa all day the next day while he was gone with Jubilee deep sea fishing, we returned to our hotel room at the Hilton Homewood suites we were a totally different couple. The parade that your community put together for our warriors really showed my warrior that the sacrifices he made for his country is still appreciated by so many people. The food that we had each night was so amazing so I would also like to thank all the restaurants that provided us with the delicious lunches and dinners that we had while on this retreat, Captain Andersons, subway, papa John's, Chicken salad Chick, Rusty's, Rodeos, Missions BBQ, Saltwater Grill, Rudy's, and Bayou Bills! And another thanks to Captain Anderson for the sightseeing cruise!! And the new family we met while on this retreat is phenomenal! Every day that we spent on this retreat brought us back closer to the couple we were 10 years ago. When I signed up for this retreat, I didn't realize how much of an impact it was going to have on us. When I tell you we went to this retreat as a couple with a marriage that was literally on the brink of divorce, this retreat saved us, I truly mean it saved US! Not only did we go a week without arguing while on the retreat, but we are also still getting along even now that we are back home! Thank you so much for everything Linda Cope, Philip Cope, and Jonathon Cope! Yall are an amazing family!!

Thank you,

Eddie and Amy Jerkins

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Dear Community of Panama City Beach,

I express my deepest gratitude and utmost appreciation for all you have done for me. As a veteran, I have always been proud to serve my country and fellow citizens. However, it is times like these when I feel equally proud and grateful to be a part of such a kind-hearted and compassionate community.

Your support and kindness towards me have left me at a loss for words. The veteran's parade organized by The Warrior Beach Retreat was a heartfelt tribute to all the veterans who have served our country. The parade was a reminder of how much our service is appreciated, and it was an honor to be a part of it.

I was also deeply touched by how the community showed gratitude toward me and my fellow veterans. The warm welcome and the kindness that your community has shown towards us did not go unnoticed. These small gestures from you all have left a lasting impression, and I will always be thankful for them.

I am equally grateful for the exceptional treatment and care my spouse received while we were in your city. It was an experience, as she had never been treated with such warmth, respect, and compassion. The spouses of veterans often bear the consequences of their choices, and it was truly remarkable to witness the outstanding support she received.

Thank you again for your generosity and hospitality. Being part of such a wonderful community was a pleasure and an honor. I pray that your kindness and grace remain with you and continue to bless your community in the future.

With heartfelt appreciation and warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Rene and Michelle Atkinson Jr.

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I want to take a little of your time to tell you how amazing the Warrior Retreat was, and the amazing community of Panama City. First to even be there was a blessing, I had totally forgotten that I had signed up. However, it was by God's purpose for us to have taken that call coming from a doctors' appointment. When we arrived, we were received by the escorting sheriff (I believe his name was Tim) and Jonathan. Their genuine concern about our travel there and assisting with our bags, is rare generosity in these current times.

As we were checking in, we briefly met Phillip and Linda, even in their haste they took a minute to welcome us. I just love Linda, she reminds me of Leigh Anne Tuohy, very stern with a side of sweetness lol. I knew it was a blessing to be there and an assignment from the Lord when I was asked to pray before the parade. God moved and it showed during the parade. Panama City, Florida..... You all were AMAZING!!!! To see a community that TRULY supports and loves the military was just AMAZING!! In all my Homecoming ceremonies, I have never seen or experienced the display of love on the high that you all gave. It was difficult driving at one point because of the tears, however, I drove on like a soldier. Panama City has set the standard and is the standard for military appreciation.

It has been a few weeks and I still tell people about this amazing experience. We are hoping that we can attend many more in the future. God bless and keep you all.

Sincerely,

Willie McMillian

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My name is Stephen Rose. My wife Amy (an Air Force veteran) and I attended the Warrior Beach Retreat at the Embassy suites by Hilton Panama City Beach resort. As I look for ways to express what this experience has done for us, words can't really capture it. From a police escort to dinner, to being interviewed by 2 different news stations, to hundreds of people lining the streets expressing love and appreciation for those they know who committed their lives to securing their freedom. (To the woman standing on the side of the road holding a picture of her fallen son- thank you for your family's sacrifice everyone in our group spoke of it with tears) boy-scouts, guardsman, veterans and just everyday American patriots all honoring MY wife's service. And to top it off 2 fighter jets flew over at 700 feet as we crossed that beautiful bridge!!! This community doesn't have to say one word to express their patriotism, because it just shows.

Thank you so much,
Stephen and Amy Rose

Let me begin by saying thank you, thank you, thank you for all the genuine love that was bestowed upon my wife and I doing the Fall 2023 Warrior Beach Retreat. Panama City is now our home away from home. From the moment we stepped off the plane, we felt like royalty. We still can't believe how the community showed up just to say thank you to veterans. Seeing all the kids, families of fallen heroes, and other veterans really left a big impression on my heart. That experience alone will be with me the rest of my life. Each day provided well needed relaxation and a new adventure. The exciting police escorts to dinner were amazing. Reading the letters from the local school kids reminded me why I chose to serve. There was so much great food and meaningful fellowship. Spiritually, my faith has been restored. Meeting new life-long friends cannot be replaced. In closing, we have so much gratitude for having the opportunity of attending the Warrior Beach Retreat. We truly appreciate

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all the efforts of the community, volunteers, and sponsors. Thank you, Philip, Linda, Joshua, and Jonathan, for your sacrifices. Thank you and your family for answering the call and showing wounded warriors the love of God and true American Love.

Forever Grateful,
Christopher and Cheryl Walker

On behalf of my wife and myself we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Cope family, Warrior Beach Retreat and city of Panama City Beach, Fl. The hospitality that was shown by the entire city was amazing. We have never been recognized like that. Where we live it is just normal for Service members to serve and even come back wounded and heal up and go do it all over again and again. The Host hotel (Embassy Suites by Hilton, PCB) staff were amazing from the front desk, the valet team's attention to detail and respect they showed us was immeasurable, the housekeeping and management staff were very welcoming and friendly. I would absolutely recommend this hotel to all. The events that were planned for the service members and their caregivers were amazing and needed. I was able to communicate with my brothers in arms and made some new friends. The way the city turned out for the parade was so heartfelt. We really felt appreciated for the sacrifices that we made and continue to make in support of our country.

Just a few places that we would like to thank.

Embassy Suites by Hilton PCB

KIA for supplying the rental car.

The Living Word Church for hosting the ceremony.

All the sponsors from different attractions around the city and also all the places we ate at for the delicious meals provided.

I can't express the level of appreciation and gratitude we have for Linda Philip and Jonathan Cope. Their dedication and purpose to make this a memorable event for all is what keeps this program going.

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Also, Mike and Tabitha Nelson know that we have made some lifelong friends, and we can't wait to see them again real soon.

Thank you again for a week that we will never forget.

Respectfully,

Steven and Janet Hull

US Army SPC Eddie Jerkins

USAF SSgt Amy Rose

USMC LCpl Rene Atkinson

US Army SFC Christopher Walker

US Army SSG Willie McMillian

US Army MSG Steven Hull



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