

GENERALS MAIL CALL



Johnstown Generals Veteran Hockey Newsletter
johnstowngenerals.com

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Trees for Troops 2022

By Chad Burnosky

Cheer. Music. Togetherness. Trees. Wind. All were present at the Mytrysak Family Tree Farm on Saturday, December 3. Despite the morning clouds and gusting the wind, the afternoon sun brought smiling faces out to the farm.

The Generals' table had been stationed next to Indiana County Sheriff, Robert Fyock, where he had coloring books and keychains to handout to passing children. Sheriff Fyock shared his stories with us about serving in the Army during Vietnam and, a very impressive milestone, being in law enforcement for 50 years! Our other neighboring table was the decoration table, where children could decorate wooden tree cutouts with paint, glitter, stickers, glue, and...maybe transporting the trees home wasn't a concern on our priority list. But, we had fun pointing out all of the messy options to the kids when they would stop to decorate.

Throughout the day, with the assistance from soldiers of A Co. 1st BN 110 Infantry Reg, the Generals tagged trees that were destined for families in Fort Rucker, Alabama. 120 trees were donated by generous people and organizations within the community. The Generals were also blessed to purchase a tree for the Veterans Parsonage in Indiana, with a number of other trees provided to local veterans by the Mytrysaks.

We were honored to be invited to assist the Mytrysaks for our second consecutive year with the Trees for Troops event. Witnessing the giving nature of people during the holidays to those that volunteer to protect our freedoms is truly the greatest gift.

Follow the Generals website and social accounts for next year's Trees for Troops event details, or visit the Mytrysak Family Tree farm events at mytrysakfamilytrees.com or treesfortroops.org for additional event information.



Photo: Courtesy of Anthony Frazier Facebook Page
Johnstown Generals with Indiana County Commissioner, Sherene Hess

Player Spotlight—Matthew Fetzer #36

Pre-military Background: Born and raised in Johnstown. Played baseball from 5 years old up through high school. Started playing hockey in high school. I have a younger brother and sister, which my parents Skip and Anita Fetzer did an excellent job at raising us all. As a child, myself and the neighborhood kids were always outside playing army, fixing our bicycles, or exploring.

Military Career: Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 20 years of service so far with a few years remaining on my contract. Entered the service as a 67R, which was an AH-64 Apache helicopter repairer, then switched to a 15R series when the Army restructured the MOS system. In 2016, I reclassified to a 15T MOS UH-60 Blackhawk repairer/inspector. Currently an E7 Sergeant First Class at the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site as a quality control supervisor. Deployed 3 times, 1st to Kosovo in 2004-2005, 2nd to Afghanistan in 2012-2013, and 3rd to Kuwait in 2020-2021.



Photo: Provided by Matthew Fetzer



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Photo: Courtesy of Danielle Walukas Photography

most of the time in adult league, but transitioned to mainly playing defense for the Generals within the past year and a half. My favorite memory with the Generals was playing at PPG Paints Arena, and Wells Fargo Center. Not only is it an awesome experience to play on NHL ice, but the experience of spending the whole day with the General's players and families while out of town for those events, makes the experience so much better. Spending time both on the ice and off with the members and family members of the Generals is a great feeling to know that the time spent is helpful for the mental aspect of knowing there are other military members in our area that are able to use hockey and friendships to heal and get each other through tough times. Even though we have members from all branches of the military, we come together as one family to help and support each other.

Civilian Life: Married with two biological kids Jacob and Benjamin with my wife Jessica. We unofficially adopted Anna Piro when she was a teenager and now have 3 unofficial grandchildren through her. I work for the Army Aviation Flight Facility in Johnstown as an Aviation mechanic and inspector. I am also taking college classes to become an OSHA qualified specialist, and should finish my degree in the spring of 2024. My hobbies are spending time with family, playing hockey, and walking our 11 month old German Shepherd puppy with my parents and their dogs.

Hockey: I started playing hockey while in high school back around the year 2000, and off and on after high school in the adult league at Planet Ice, then Ebensburg and Altoona when Planet Ice closed. I mostly played forward, left wing and center in high school and



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Photo: Courtesy of Danielle Walukas Photography

Player Spotlight—Zach Land #8



Pre-military Background: Born and raised in Spangler (Northern Cambria) PA, grew up loving and playing most sports; hockey and baseball were my favorite.

Military Career: Served 6 years with the PA Army National Guard as a member of the 252nd Engineer Company. Spent most of 2014 in Afghanistan under Operation Enduring Freedom and separated in 2018 as a Sergeant.

Civilian Life: Today I reside in northern Cambria County with my wife Alexa, 4 year old son Blake, and 2 year old twin daughters Arabella and Juliana. I drive truck for Performance Food Group delivering to schools and restaurants. I enjoy being outdoors and am an avid hunter.

Photo: Courtesy of Danielle Walukas Photography

Hockey: Unfortunately, I never got to play hockey at a lower level like high school but I would always play pond hockey with friends. Joined the Generals around February of 2021 and have been playing as a forward.

Favorite memory I have with the Generals is honestly every time we're all together. There is not a time where a memory isn't being made.



Photos: Provided by Zach Land



SOCIAL MEDIA



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Johnstown Generals Veteran Hockey



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Letter from the President

By Franko Alexander

Generals, state of the organization.

Happy New Year!! As 2022 runs out of fuel and 2023 gets fired up and ready to roll, let's reflect on where we came from, what we have accomplished and our vision for the future.

I'd like to start by thanking those who have and continue to be an important part of this team, without you and your family's sacrifices, we would not have made it where we are today.

Last year we experienced a ton of growth, this includes on and off ice events and even the adding of more individuals to our organization and ultimately, our family. The Generals this year have had the opportunity to participate in 5 tournaments, 33 adult league games, 27 Drop-in / practices, 5 invitation games to include playing at PPG Paints Arena, 2 parades, our 2nd annual Trees for Troops donation drive, the 1st Generals hockey boot camp and many more activities throughout the year. We as a team are very fortunate to have so many opportunities to enjoy comradery, volunteerism, and of course celebrate the game of hockey. These things are not possible without the time taken to plan events, activities and fundraising. I ask everyone to challenge themselves this year to participate in as many functions as you can. It takes all of us to make this organization greater each year.

Our vision is simple, to be better. Better as an organization, we have so much to offer this areas veteran and non-veteran communities, we started being all about hockey but I am confident we will all see the benefit to being more than just hockey. We are becoming more of a family with everything we do, more spouses and loved ones have been getting involved; for this we have much to be thankful for. As we continue in this direction, we look to encourage everyone with more opportunities to give back. The spirit of helping others is alive and well, this will continue to fuel our mission and obligation to continue serving, whether currently in the military or not. Hockey is the vehicle, and our service to the community will be our fuel. Here's to 2023!

Sincerely,

Franko Alexander
Interim-President



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Mining Company

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1st Annual Mullen Toys for Tots Game

By Jessie Mullen

The Johnstown Generals participated in the 1st Annual Mullen Toys for Tots Game on December 10 at 1st Summit Arena. Sean and Jessie Mullen, both retired Marines and Johnstown Generals, sought to bring together the community, veterans, and hockey in support of a great cause: the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. The only thing that can make hockey better is playing for a cause: more than 90 toys and over \$600 were collected for Toys for Tots.

In attendance were the Johnstown Generals, led by team captain Ben Urban, and members of the Pittsburgh Warriors, led by President Dave Jackel. Fans were encouraged to bring a toy or cash, and were able to stay for the Johnstown Tomahawks game that evening. Players also brought toys to donate to Toys for Tots.

Several individuals and organizations were instrumental in making the event a success:

- The Johnstown Tomahawks donated ice time, monies, and provided marketing. Special thanks to Derek Partsch, Melissa Kauffman, and Caitlin Stoner.
- Staff Sergeant Pangan, the local Toys for Toys Coordinator, and his Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, Detachment A for their on-site donation center.
- Sergeant Aaron McCarthy, also of Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, Detachment A, led the color guard detail. The color guard also included Corporal Jhoan Banks, Corporal Lucas Holderman, and Corporal Joseph Meyer.
- Mr. Ed Forster, Commandant of Marine Corps League 287, dropped the ceremonial puck.
- The Westmont Hilltop Marching Band, led by Mr. Josh Brumbaugh, was also in attendance, adding flair between the whistles and cheering on their favorite players.



- The Domonkos brothers for donating their time and expertise as referees.
- ASM Global for the space for donation center and the scoreboard operators. Special thanks to Jean Desrochers and Dustin Rummel.
- WJAC raised awareness of the 1st Annual Mullen Toys for Tots Game by broadcasting an interview of Jessie prior to the game, and arrived at 1st Summit Arena to conduct a post-game interview with Sean, Jessie, and Staff Sgt. Pangan.
- Danielle Walukas for providing photographic support.

Sean and Jessie Mullen plan to hold the event next year, and hope the event will continue to grow.

Veterans Day 2022

By Chad Burnosky

November is historically a busy month for Generals hockey. Between Veterans Day preparations with parades, exhibition games and hosting a tournament over that weekend, we lean on volunteers to help in all areas. This year, although just as busy, was filled with unique experiences and memories to last a lifetime.

The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, on November 5th, far exceeded any of our expectations for the day. A huge thanks to Ben Stayrook, Johnstown General, for coordinating weeks prior with the Foundation, and for initiating contact and sharing our mission. The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation had invited the Generals and Pittsburgh Warriors to play an exhibition game at PPG Paints Arena prior to being guests at the Penguins' Military Appreciation Game. The hospitality of both the Pittsburgh Penguins and



Photo: Ben Stayrook, Ryan Malone, Franko Alexander



Sidney Crosby wearing the Generals logo on his left sleeve

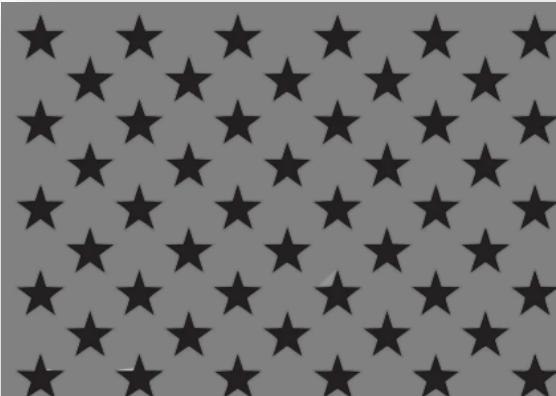
The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation made us feel like rock stars; from meeting Ryan Malone, former Pittsburgh Penguin and founder of The Malone Family Foundation, on the ice prior to puck drop; enough tickets to the Military Appreciation Game for our families to join; AT&T SportsNet Pittsburgh for interviews, coverage and sharing our mission; and for including the Generals and Warriors logos on the Penguins Military Appreciation Game warmup jerseys. We cannot begin to thank the organizations enough for the memories they helped create and to Amanda Susko, Senior Director, Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, for the overwhelming support of our team and mission.

The second event scheduled was an exhibition game against the Pittsburgh Warthogs, an affiliate of IATW Foundation. A familiar and evenly matched team, that often results in very close scores and competitive play. This year's game was played at Hunt Armory in Shadyside on Thursday, November 10. A unique facility that was home to a Field Artillery unit of the PA Army National Guard and converted to a community ice rink. The Generals were able to pull the win after 3 periods of tough hockey and shared some cake provided by Warthogs Marine, Josh Schreckengost, to partake for the Marine Corps 247th birthday.

The final planned event was the 3rd Annual Johnstown Veterans Day Tournament, hosted by the Johnstown Generals. The tournament hosted teams from Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., and Ohio, and spanned from Friday, November 11, through Sunday. The participating teams attended the Johnstown Veterans Day Parade and were offered tickets to the Cole Swindell Concert, held at 1st Summit Arena on Saturday, courtesy of ASM Global. The tournament held competitive games over the 3 days. The Championship was won by Deep 6 of Ohio, over the Johnstown Generals.



JOHNSTOWN GENERALS MISSION



With common values of honor, courage, and commitment; the Johnstown Generals provide an outlet to active duty and military veterans through hockey and fellowship for mental and physical health while being committed to community outreach and awareness of military veteran issues.

DONATION QR CODES



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