HONOR FOR HEROES - NEWSLETTER

NEW NAME

ECHOES OF HONOR



Honor for Heroes is growing, and we are looking for a few good people who want to be part of something that truly matters.

We have opportunities for Board Members, Ambassadors, Officers, and Sustaining Members who are ready to roll up their sleeves, bring their ideas, work as a team, and help us move our mission forward.

We are looking for highly motivated people who believe in what we are doing and understand that the mission comes first. You do not have to have all the answers. You just need to have the heart to serve, the willingness to work, and the desire to make a difference.

Being part of Honor for Heroes can be incredibly rewarding. You will have the opportunity to meet great people, make a real difference, honor our heroes, and help build something that will last for generations.

If that sounds like you, we would love to have you join us.

Honor the Brave. Support the Selfless. Remember the Fallen.

Check out of website at Honor4heroes.com or email us at info@honor4heroes.com

Thank You To One Of Our Loyal Sponsors!

We would like to thank **Coca-Cola Consolidated** for all of their support!

Honor for Heroes Commisioned a Song to Honor the Wereth 11



Song "Wereth 11" sung by Award winning Artist, MaineTaine

Now available for purchase and listening on all platforms

Board Member Spotlight

Kathy Schofield

For as long as I can remember, I have been drawn to helping people. Growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, I attended Valdosta State University as a middle school education major before realizing that my love of lifeguarding and teaching swimming could become something bigger. I began dreaming of how recreation and aquatics could create opportunities for people of all abilities. In 2005, I transferred to Georgia Southern University to pursue a degree in Recreation with a concentration in Community Leisure Services. Before beginning that chapter, I spent a summer in Yokosuka, Japan, completing an internship on a U.S. Naval and Marine Corps base. That experience connected me to the military community and the dedication surrounding those who serve our country and their families.

I had already begun imagining my ultimate dream: an all-ability inclusive pool and water park where people of every ability could find belonging through therapeutic services, swim lessons, swim teams, and community activities. More than a pool, I envisioned a place that could help build a bridge toward a more inclusive and accepting world.

After graduating from Georgia Southern, I completed an internship at the former Amelia Island Plantation before moving to Orlando, Florida, to continue pursuing recreation through lifeguarding. Sixteen years ago, that journey brought me to Anderson, South Carolina. Looking back, I believe I have been divinely placed in the jobs I've held and, perhaps even more importantly, in the lives of the people I've met. Each opportunity has taught me something and helped lead me toward the work I am privileged to do today.

In 2015, I completed Clemson University's online Master's program in Recreation Management. I continued my education with a second master's-level program in Therapeutic Recreation through SUNY Cortland and earned my Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) certification through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification.

Today, I have the privilege of serving as Program Director for Anderson County's Special Population Recreation program, The Rainbow Gang. The Rainbow Gang is a free day program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through Therapeutic Recreation, we provide meaningful activities based on the individual goals and needs of our participants, promoting participation, personal growth, social connection, independence, and quality of life.

I also have the honor of serving as Co-Area Director for Area 14 Anderson County South Carolina Special Olympics. Together with Tessa Hilley, Maranda Chitwood, and an amazing group of parents, community partners, coaches, and volunteers, we provide 13 year-round sports for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Throughout the year, we also provide five free or low-cost community events, including a Trunk or Treat, Christmas party, beauty pageant, talent show, and prom. These events create opportunities for friendship, celebration, confidence, and belonging.



Board Member Kathy Schofield

An Animal to Rocognize

Sergeant Stubby

During World War I, a stray dog named Stubby wandered onto the campus of Yale University, where soldiers from the 102nd Infantry Regiment were training. The soldiers quickly adopted him, and Stubby became their unofficial mascot. When the unit was sent to France, Stubby secretly traveled with them and soon proved that he was more than just a mascot. Stubby served alongside the soldiers in the trenches, where he learned to recognize the sound of incoming artillery and gas attacks. He would warn the soldiers of danger, locate wounded men on the battlefield, and even helped capture a German soldier by holding onto his uniform until American soldiers arrived. Stubby was later wounded by shrapnel but recovered and returned to his unit.

By the end of the war, Stubby had participated in four offensives and 17 battles. He returned home as a celebrated hero and met several U.S. presidents. Sergeant Stubby remains one of the most famous military dogs in American history, remembered for his courage, loyalty, and service alongside the soldiers who became his family.



Sergeant Stubby
Photo Credit: Terrier Hero of Georgetown / Wikimedia Commons / Public Domain (Colorized by Palette.fm)



Family members of the late SFC Frederick Robertson gathered around his memorial bench

SFC Robertson Project

Sergeant First Class Frederick Darrell “Rob” Robertson was a devoted patriot, veteran, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who dedicated his life to serving his country. He proudly served three tours in Vietnam before retiring from the United States Army after a distinguished military career. Rob cherished his family and especially enjoyed his role as “Papa” to his grandchildren. He passed away on September 5, 2025, surrounded by his daughters and granddaughters.

Following Rob’s passing, his family reached out to Honor for Heroes to help create a lasting tribute to his life and legacy. In response, Honor for Heroes designed and commissioned a custom memorial bench through the generosity of private donors. The bench was placed at VFW Post 9273 in Piedmont, South Carolina, alongside an Eagle Scout’s fire pit project, creating a permanent place for reflection and remembrance. Through this memorial, Honor for Heroes is honored to preserve SFC Robertson’s legacy and ensure that future generations will remember his service, sacrifice, and dedication to his country and family.

Thoughts From Our President Matthew Hilley

Corporate giving programs do an incredible amount of good in communities across America. Large companies invest millions of dollars each year into worthy causes, and they have every right to distribute those funds in whatever way they believe best aligns with their mission and values.

At the same time, it may be worth considering a simple question. Could a small portion of those charitable dollars create an even greater impact if directed toward proven smaller nonprofits?

Many companies naturally gravitate toward large national organizations. These nonprofits often have recognizable names, established reputations, and extensive reporting systems that make the donation process easier. There is also less perceived risk because research has often been done by others over many years.

However, smaller nonprofits are frequently doing remarkable work at the local level. They are often closer to the people they serve and can respond more quickly to community needs. In many cases, they operate with limited resources and far less administrative overhead. This means a larger percentage of every dollar may go directly toward programs and services that impact lives.

Consider the difference between a $50,000 donation to a large national nonprofit and a $5,000 donation to a smaller organization. While the larger gift is certainly valuable, the smaller gift may represent a transformative investment for the smaller nonprofit. It could fund an entire project, purchase needed equipment and supplies, expand services, or help the organization reach dozens or even hundreds of additional people.

This is not an argument against large nonprofits. They play an essential role in addressing major challenges and many are doing outstanding work. Rather, it is a reminder that impact is not always measured by the size of the organization receiving the donation.

Large companies have the unique ability to help strengthen the entire nonprofit ecosystem. By taking a little extra time to research proven smaller organizations and allocating even a small percentage of their charitable giving toward them, they can help create stronger nonprofits, stronger communities, and have a greater long-term impact.

Sometimes the most powerful investment is not the largest check. Sometimes it is the check that arrives at exactly the right place, at exactly the right time.

At Honor for Heroes, we see this reality every day. As we continue to grow and expand our mission, we have worked hard to keep our overhead costs low so that as much of every donation as possible goes directly toward serving our Heroes and the communities we support. Like many smaller nonprofits, we are proving that meaningful impact does not always require a large budget. It requires commitment, accountability, and the trust of those willing to invest in the mission.

The truth is that fundraising has become more challenging in today's world. Costs continue to rise, donor dollars are stretched further than ever before, and competition for charitable giving has never been greater. Yet the need has not diminished. If anything, it has grown.

Whether you choose to support a large nonprofit, a small nonprofit, or even an individual family in need, the most important thing is that you continue to give. Every act of generosity has the potential to change a life. It is your opportunity to help change the world.

At Honor for Heroes, we believe we are one conversation away from changing the world and one donation away from funding the mission.

Recognize, Support, Memorialize.

Support Our Mission By:

Like, share and comment on Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and Instagram @Honor4Heroes

Make a donation on website

Spread awareness to our cause

Sponsor us or encourage sponsorships in the community

Check out our merch store linked on website

Read More on our website here