

HONOR FOR HEROES

# NEWSLETTER



Honor For Heroes Team at South Carolina State House April 2, 2026, following the reading of the Proclamation making Dec. 17th every year in South Carolina, Wereth II Remembrance Day

We're excited to welcome you to this quarter's Honor for Heroes newsletter and share everything we've been working on over the past few months. Thanks to your continued support, we've made meaningful progress toward our mission of recognizing, supporting, and memorializing all our heroes from the past and the present. Every event, partnership, and project has been possible because of the generosity and dedication of people like you who believe in preserving the stories and sacrifices of heroes of all types.

This edition highlights recent accomplishments, community impact, and the incredible individuals who make our work possible. From memorial initiatives and outreach efforts to special events that bring communities together, we are proud to continue creating opportunities to educate, inspire, and honor all heroes. We're also looking ahead with excitement and can't wait to share our upcoming projects, future goals, and new ways for you to get involved in making a lasting difference alongside Honor for Heroes!

## Thank You To One Of Our Loyal Sponsors!

We would like to thank **Pizza Buffet** of Anderson for all of their support!



Members of the Honor For Heroes team  
with the Pizza Buffet team

## Board Member Spotlight Dr. Rob Carey

I grew up in Pendleton, except for about a year when we lived in West Germany (if that tells you how old I am) when my father was stationed there in the Army. My parents owned a grocery store, Tribbles Superette, in Pendleton, where I worked while growing up. I graduated from Pendleton High School in 1987 and became a freshman engineering major at Clemson. I quickly realized that I was not cut out to be an engineer, but I did have a knack for economics, so I changed my major during my first semester. I liked it so much that I went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1991 and a master's degree in August 1993. After that, I taught freshman economics as an adjunct at TriCounty Technical College and Anderson University, which I really enjoyed, but deciding I probably should get something more along the lines of a paying gig, I went back to Clemson after a few years to get a Ph.D. in policy studies (with a focus on economic development policy), which I completed in 2007. In 2005, while completing my degree, I was hired as a research economist at the Strom Thurmond Institute (STI) at Clemson, where I did economic impact analysis as director of the Regional Economic Analysis Laboratory (CU-REAL). In 2012, I established Regional Transactions Concepts, LLC to allow me to do economic impact analysis projects on my own as well. In 2019, with the dissolution of STI as a research institute, I was moved to the Department of Political Science, where I primarily teach American Government, Public Administration, and Policy Evaluation. In my personal life, I have a son, Kilian, who was born in 2019, and I am a founding member of NewLife Fellowship in Anderson.

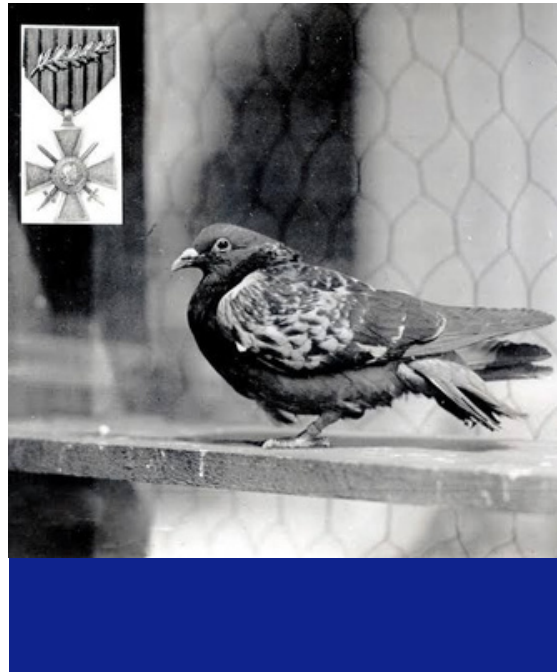


Board Member Rob Carey

## An Animal to Rocognize Cher Ami

Cher Ami was an unlikely hero of World War One, a small homing pigeon who played a big role in saving the U.S. Army's 77th Infantry Division, famously known as the "Lost Battalion." When other messages failed, Cher Ami bravely flew through heavy enemy fire to deliver a crucial note. Even after being shot and losing a leg along the way, friendly fire was stopped and many soldiers were saved because of his determined flight. Today, Cher Ami is remembered with honor, having earned the French Croix de Guerre and a permanent place at the Smithsonian as a reminder that heroes truly come in all shapes and sizes.

While animals may not technically be heroes in the same sense that we call humans, we would still like to acknowledge their contribution through history.



Resolutions declaring December 17<sup>th</sup> each year as "Wereth 11 Remembrance Day"

## Wereth 11 Project

The Wereth 11 were eleven Black soldiers from the all-Black 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were captured by the German 1st SS Panzer Division during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. After escaping into the woods and seeking shelter in the small village of Wereth, Belgium, they were betrayed, brutally tortured, and executed on December 17, 1944. For many years, their story remained largely forgotten.

Honor for Heroes has worked to preserve and share the legacy of the Wereth 11, especially Private Curtis Adams of Anderson, South Carolina. Honor For Heroes helped establish "Wereth 11 Remembrance Day" in Anderson County, hosted a memorial service and historical event on Veterans Day 2025 at American Legion Post 14, and partnered with community leaders to bring public attention to the sacrifice of these soldiers. We have also advocated for memorials and recognition projects dedicated to Private Curtis Adams and the Wereth 11 so their courage and sacrifice are never forgotten.

## A Message From Our President Matthew Hilley

On May 15, 2026, we celebrated the 5 Year Anniversary of Honor for Heroes with an incredible Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in partnership with the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce. It was more than just an event. It was a reminder of how far we have come, how many people believe in this mission, and how much work still lies ahead.

When I first started Honor for Heroes, it came from a simple but powerful belief. Our heroes deserve to be recognized, supported, and remembered. That belief became our mission statement, and it continues to guide every single thing we do.

“Honoring the Brave, Supporting the Selfless, Remembering the Fallen.”

Over the last five years, we have worked towards that mission through advocacy, assistance, remembrance, and service. We have stood beside veterans, active-duty service members, first responders, Gold Star families, and hero families in times of celebration and in times of need. We have worked to ensure sacrifices are never forgotten and stories are never lost to history.

The Ribbon Cutting was a perfect reflection of what Honor for Heroes is all about. We had a large crowd show up to celebrate with us. The office was filled with conversations, networking, laughter, and people who genuinely care about our community and our heroes. Guests enjoyed cupcakes, Krispy Kreme donuts, fresh strawberries, and great fellowship throughout the afternoon. Dead Horse Productions was on hand capturing photos and filming a short promotional video that will help us continue sharing our story and mission with others.

As I looked around the office that day, I saw something bigger than an organization. I saw a family. I saw people from all walks of life coming together because they believe our heroes matter.

Over the last year alone, we have seen major accomplishments that once seemed impossible. One of the proudest moments in our organization's history came when the South Carolina General Assembly recognized Honor for Heroes from the floor of the House after officially passing the Wereth 11 Remembrance Day Resolution. Marking December 17th every year as Wereth 11 Remembrance Day across the state of South Carolina was a powerful reminder that Heroes matters. Those soldiers deserved to be remembered and because of many dedicated individuals and organizations working together, their story will continue to be told for generations to come.

### Support Our Mission By:

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Sponsor us or encourage  
sponsorships in the community

Check out our merch store linked  
on website

[Read More on our  
website here](#)

None of this happens alone. I would like to personally thank our Board Members, Officers, Ambassadors, volunteers, and supporters who continue to pour their hearts into this organization. Thank you to every sponsor, donor, community partner, and individual who has stood beside us over the last five years. Your support has allowed us to grow far beyond what many thought possible.

Most importantly, thank you to every hero and hero family who has trusted us with your stories, your memories, and your friendship. You are the reason we do this work.

As we move into the future, I can honestly say that some of the biggest things in the history of Honor for Heroes are still ahead of us. There are new partnerships being built, new projects being planned, and new opportunities to serve our community and our heroes in meaningful ways.

Five years ago, Honor for Heroes started with a mission and a belief that people still care about honoring sacrifice and service. Five years later, that belief has only grown stronger.

The work continues.

Recognize. Support. Memorialize.