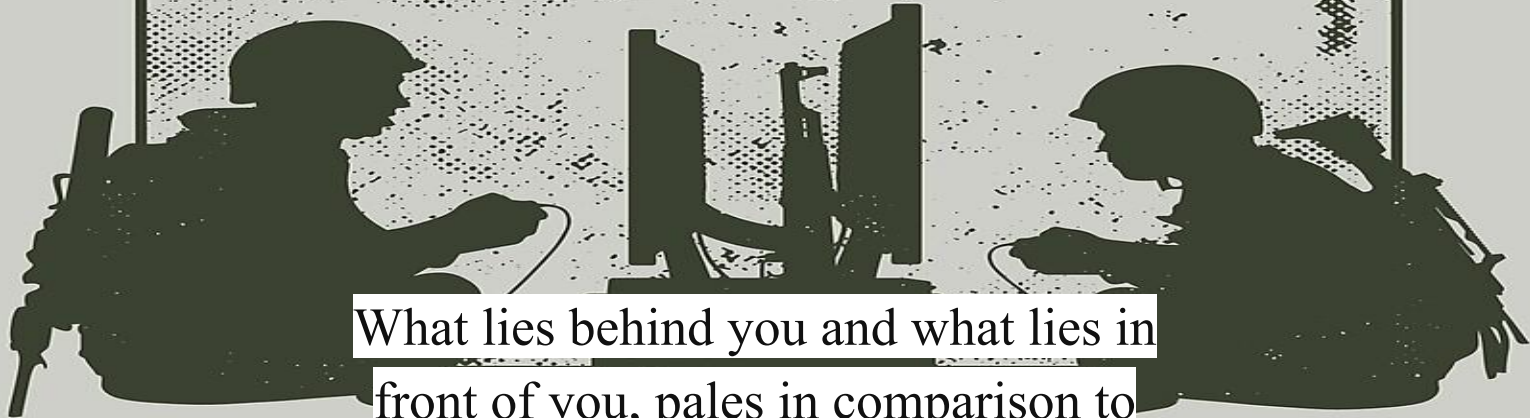




*Silence the Stigma*

# Changing Culture as a Community

Hellfish Haven's mission is to assist America's veterans through a combination of online gaming, recreational activities, peer support, and advocacy. It is our intent to reduce suicide by fostering an all inclusive veteran community.



What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Safe Sober environment to educate, entertain, and empower

With the introduction of stricter drinking and driving laws and the impact of the Opioid Crisis on all populations including Veterans the idea of a Veterans Organization being a bar first and VSO second has to be changed.

Today's Veterans do not want to be part of VSOs that are more like drinking clubs that allow and often encourage behavior that is crude, sexist, racist, homophobic, and generally in poor taste.

GWOT Veterans seek a more active way of life and seek organizations who are just as active with an online forum as they operate in and out of daily.



# Setting the Haven Up for Success

Hellfish Haven will succeed in today's environment utilizing physical and virtual engagement with Veterans and the communities they live in, not waiting for Veterans to come to us.

The Veterans Collaborative is a great start to an online community that shares information so no organization or Veteran must reinvent the wheel. We are truly part of One Team One Fight!

A diverse Board of Directors and insight from guests and speakers will help the Haven to continually grow and update to stay modern and meet the needs of each generation of Veterans in order to best preserve life and improve mental and physical well being.

# Ongoing updates and Online presence

As we seek a physical location to set up the Haven. We continue to share information with other Veteran Service Organizations and help individual Soldiers get the help they need for whatever situation may arise.

Communication in cyberspace is the best way to get feedback from guests and speakers at the start.

We are seeking a building with at least 3 rooms to start and the next slides will get into detail of what each room will consist of.

# Hellfish Haven Computer Lab

A fully equipped computer lab with PC's, laptops, printers, scanners, fax, and webcams for Veterans to utilize in 3 areas of operation

**Education**-Veterans can utilize the computer lab for online courses, research, printing out papers, or any other project directly related to or in support of their educational needs and goal.

**Employment**-Veterans may utilize computers to attend virtual job fairs, interview virtually for a position, build their resume, take classes and gain or improve digital skills for the current job market

**Benefits**-Veterans may utilize the lab to file for any Veteran bonus or benefits that require digital signatures or electronic completion of applications.

# Hellfish Haven Conference Room & Info Wall

Many chapters of great Veteran Nonprofits reside in Boston with no physical location. The conference room would give them a place to meet physical and have literature for other Veterans to learn about who they are and what their missions are.

VSO that no longer have buildings can also use this space for meetings and small functions

Classes and webinars can be broadcast to and from this room to not only reach Veterans but also help train the Community Leaders who want to take a more active role in the fight against Suicide and the stigma against PTSD

# Community building utilizing Video Games

Many Veterans and current members of the Armed Forces are casual gamers. Playing video games in order to escape the stress and situations that create it..

Gaming locally and online with other like minded Veteran Organizations will allow the Haven to create a comradery among the Veterans both at and interacting with the Haven virtually.

Events will be held to foster and develop this safe sober environment so any and all Veterans know they are welcome to play and be apart of the community regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious beliefs, or education background.



# Staffing the Haven

Employees will be Veterans too and would preferably be trained or be willing to get trained as a peer support specialist to help best serve our Veterans

Having someone at the front desk who can help navigate the ever changing list of programs available for the Veteran community is critical to our success or failure.

I have personally been involved in various organizations in the area such as:

- Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Vocational Rehab
- HUD-VASH
- PTSD Clinic
- VA Boston Healthcare System
- Wounded Warrior Project
- Home Base Program
- Team Red White & Blue
- Team Rubicon
- The Mission Continues
- American Legion
- VFW
- DAV
- Student Veterans of America
- Veterans Business Owners Initiative
- New England Veterans Alliance

# Care beyond our Control

A partnership between the Haven and local mental health providers is being established to refer Veterans to clinical providers who can assist and administer proper care for signs and symptoms of PTSD, TBI, Depression, Anxiety, Suicidal Ideation, and help provide the proper tools for having the hard conversations with our community in order to truly impact and eliminate the suicide epidemic that currently faces Veterans.

Providing both VA and Non VA options will give Veterans a better chance for success in finding the right mental health provider for their needs

# Silence the Stigma...Choose Life!

We have lost too many Service members and Veterans to self harm and substance abuse when care is available in almost every community. The Stigma on seeking help for mental health needs to be addressed so that our generation and the next know and understand that mental wellbeing is the foundation of physical fitness. Together we all can make a difference, it was too late for so many of our brothers and sisters but not for us if we stop being stubborn and accept help to heal.

and the truth is that  
all veterans pay with  
their lives.  
some pay all at once,  
while others pay  
over a lifetime.

JmStorm