

February 2023

GENERALS MAIL CALL

Johnstown Generals Veteran Hockey Newsletter
johnstowngenerals.com



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Troopers Helping Troopers Tournament

By Ben Urban

Mid-January, the Johnstown Generals had the chance to participate in the 2023 Troopers Helping Troopers tournament. This tournament is sponsored by and raises money for the Troopers Helping Troopers organization which provides monetary assistance to law enforcement families in need. For the third year, we chose to make the trip to Hershey to play and this year, we were able to bring a trophy back to Johnstown. In prior years, we battled mercilessly but came up short of the win. However, this year, things were different. With our roster, our sense of teamwork and the bench coaches who came out to coach and support, we were set up for a championship.

Off the ice, the team started the tournament with a lunch at Lazzaro's Italian Bistro. I think that helped the team relax and loosen up before our first game. Any chance that you can spend with the Generals' family, helps us grow whether on or off the ice. An important key for team success is to click and get to know each other as players and people. Whether preparing for tournaments, community events or other General's activities, taking part in these team building events is imperative for the chemistry of the team.

After the team lunch, we all started to drive towards Klick Ice Arena in Annville, PA. Once we all got in the locker room, the seriousness set in. Lineups were formed by the team captains and coaches; our goalie was dialed in, and players were ready to go. Everyone was skating great; the shots were on net. In my opinion, the warm-up, sets the tone of our game and we took advantage of every second we had together on the ice. The first game was against New Jersey Fire. It was as close and tight game. With our practicing paying off, we started to gain and maintain a lead. First game down and a win under our belt, we all felt a relief and started to focus on our next game in a few hours.



With the first game over with, we prepped to take on PSP Charlie in an 8pm match-up. I think most of us were a little tired from the drive and the first game, but we remained focused on our goals and were on a mission for the gold. This wasn't our first run against PSP Charlie. They were a tough team to beat last year. We knew this game decided if we would come close to another championship. We pulled together and faced them head on. After it was all said and done, we had another win. We played the waiting game as other teams decided our fate if we had a shot at the championship.

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As a few of the guys decided to rest up, a few of us went out for a late-night dinner at the Bonefish Grill. We were still awaiting the results of the late games. When our CEO, John Kovac, broke the news, we were all relieved to hear that we made it. Another trip to a championship. We were due for one. We went back to our hotel rooms that evening to rest and prepare mentally and physically for what the next day would bring.

Fast forwarding to 5:55pm on January 15. It was officially game time against the Pittsburgh Icemen. The locker room was a little more quiet than normal. We all suited up and took the ice. After the warm-up buzzer, we knew this was it. All the hard work from the day prior, brought us to the championship. It was a close game. The Generals outworked and outplayed Pittsburgh. The help we had from the coaches who made the trip helped us tremendously. I think we were all calmed to hear the third period buzzer. Final score, Pittsburgh 1 Generals 5.

Reflecting over the weekend, it was a win for the ENTIRE Generals' roster, not just the guys who made it out to play. There is so much that goes into being a Veteran's hockey team and it is not always the on-ice time that is the greatest reflection of the Generals in its entirety as an organization. Supporting each other on any teams and in any tournament, being there for each other when personal needs arise, and being a positive representation of our community is something that we can all take part in when not on the ice. As your Captain, writing this reflection, I'm reminded of why I joined a Veteran's team. Not only to play hockey but to be a part of something more. With my brothers and sisters in arms, this championship means so much to me. I think that could be said by from everyone who wears the Generals sweater. Being able to share this Championship trophy with the team, our families, and our community will be a lifelong memory. The trophy will reside in the historic center at First Summit Arena or otherwise known as, the War Memorial. Skills and scoreboards aside, we were able to play and win in a tournament that supports an incredible cause and I look forward to our next tournament together.



Player Spotlight—Jonathan Krumenacker Jr #85

Pre-military Background: I was born in Johnstown, Pa. Raised in Portage. I played baseball for four years, played a year of football and ran two years of track. Always wanted to play ice hockey but we couldn't afford it. My dad and mom took us fishing whenever we had time. We were always in nature. Hunting or fishing, and the occasional camping. My dad was in the PAANG.

Military Career: Enlisted 14 January 2004. 19 years and still going. I hold three MOS's; 91L SR construction equipment repairmen, 91B wheeled vehicles mechanic, and 91A M1A1 main battle tank maintainer. Two deployments; Iraq in 05, Poland in 19. Awards ARCOM, AAM, I also have a Mechanic badge.

Civilian Life: Married for going on 17 years in March to Stephanie. Two children Maurah and D'mitrius. Both are very active with their own hobbies. My hobbies are fishing, range days, and watching sports when I am able. (Mainly hockey) I do want to try to get back into hunting. I am slightly crazy and like to go for a run. My goal is to run a half marathon eventually. My job I work at FMS #33 as a Miltech. We do the maintenance on military for our assigned units in our Operating Area.

Hockey: Going on 3 years of playing ice hockey. Either wing, I have played in our local slapshot tournament 2 years. I have so many memories playing with the Generals. One that will stick out is playing on PPG ice against the Warthogs.

This organization has helped me through many hard times in my life. Some people may know, others are unknown but to me. Thank you Brothers and Sisters for being there for me. Thank you all who support this Organization.



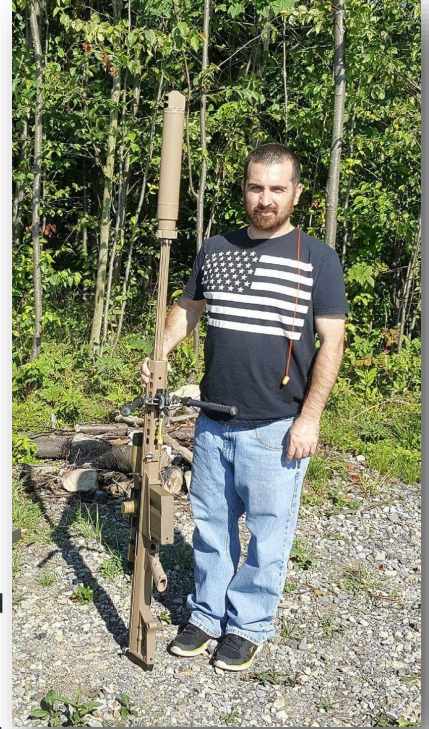
SOCIAL MEDIA

-  [johnstown.generals.hockey](https://www.instagram.com/johnstown.generals.hockey)
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Meet the CEO

By John Kovac

John Kovac is a 1996 graduate of Greater Johnstown High School. On July 11, 1996, John started Boot Camp for the US Navy at Great Lakes, Illinois, and graduated in September of 1996. Following boot camp graduation, I attended Basic Submarine Training and SONAR A School in Groton, Ct. In May of 1997, he was then assigned to the USS Oklahoma City SSN 723 that was stationed in Norfolk, VA, where I earned submarine warfare designation. In May of 1999, I suffered a life-threatening injury that led to a medical discharge on July 12, 2002, at which time I started working for AMSEC, a government contractor that performed various upgrades to US Naval War Ships. In September of 2004, I was then hired to build Nuclear Submarines by Electric Boat where I worked until 2006 when I decided as an only child it was time to



move back home and be closer to my parents. In spring of 2006, I moved back to Johnstown and was hired by DRS Technologies. After 1 year there I applied for my first oilfield job with Superior Well Service and was hired as a field electronics technician. After two years of employment, I was hired by Halliburton where I remained until 2017. In 2017 I was hired by TE3CO where I held the positions of Northeast Service Manager, Operations Manager, and Technology Integration Manager. In 2022 I was hired as the Electronics Maintenance Manager at Westinghouse Specialty Metals Plant in Blairsville PA.

Legion and veteran affairs background.

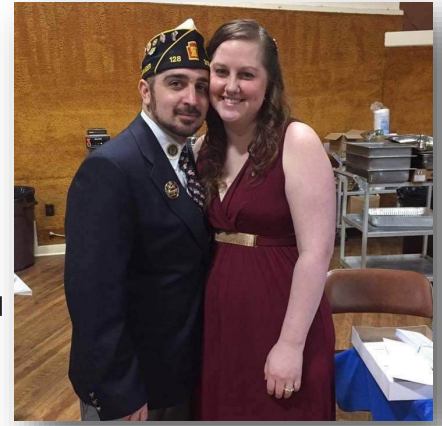
As a legionnaire at the post level, I have held the offices of Trustee, Financial Officer, 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice commander and starting my 9th year as Post Commander. At the District level, I held the positions of Deputy Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Fundraising Chairman, and District Commander. At the Department level, I served as the Western Section Adjutant. In 2018, I joined the ranks of Patriot Hills of NY Ligonier Chapter as President. In 2019, I introduced the Johnstown Generals all veteran's hockey team that promotes healing through hockey to Patriot Hills. The Johnstown Generals started as a group of 12 veterans and active military personnel, and in 3 short years, has grown to over 50 members and has donated over \$20,000.00 to local charities and youth programs.



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Personal

On August 24th , 2008, I married my soul mate, Gwen Kovac. In October of 2019, I received my most prestigious title of dad when Gwen and I welcomed our first son John Paul into our lives. In 2020, John and Gwen welcomed their nephew and now adopted son Maddox into our family. In March of 2022, we were blessed with the birth of our third son Antonio. In addition to hockey, I also enjoy shooting pool, and long distance shooting.



Veterans Museum at 1st Summit Arena

By Matthew Paterson



The veterans museum at the 1st Summit Arena is proud to present it's newest item in the collection. The Johnstown Generals first championship trophy won by the Generals at the Troopers Helping Troopers Tournament.

The museum is currently open for the Johnstown Tomahawk games and other events for your access to local veteran artifacts. The museum is always looking to add to the region's rich military history. If you or someone you know are considering donating items to the museum, we are looking for rifles, bayonets, weapon systems, training aids, trench art, pictures, unique uniforms and so on. You are able to drop off items at the 1st Summit Arena box office or reach out to the museum's curator, Matthew Paterson, to set up an appointment.

Also, did you know that you can have a seat plaque made up for your own seat or that special someone from your life at the 1st Summit Arena? Please check for the links on the Johnstown Generals web page and also the 1st Summit Arena's page as well.



Generals Board of Directors

The Johnstown Generals have been blessed to have grown to a size where additional structure was necessary. With the growing number of members and increased outreach within the community, the Generals voted for an Interim Board to restructure organizational bylaws and develop positions that best align to the organization's mission. Recent completion of these tasks has prompted the call for nominations to elect the first Board of Directors for the Generals. We would like to thank the Interim Board for their hard work and dedication in laying the groundwork for the future of the organization.

John Kovac	CEO
Franko Alexander	Interim President
Chad Burnosky	Interim Vice-President
Sean Mullen	Interim Secretary
Justin Ruggles	Interim Treasurer
Ben Urban	Team Captain

Upcoming events

James Miller Charity Game

Johnstown Generals v Johnstown Warriors

April 2023

Jacob Hale Memorial Tournament

April 2023

Hockey Boot Camp

June 2023

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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If you have any questions about our program, please email us at jtowngenerals@gmail.com, or, send us a message via our website.

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