

Johnstown Generals Veteran Hockey

Mail Call Newsletter



2024 Quarter 2 Edition



Overview

It's been a hectic few months for the Generals, who have engaged in a generous share of events both internally and externally. Collectively, the team has been given opportunities beyond the usual, and the organization could not be more grateful or proud of how the organization is growing.

Rolling over from the 4th Annual Veteran's Day Tournament in 2023, the Generals have kept themselves busy. As the new year kicked off, the team coordinated with former NHL players to host a youth hockey clinic, participated in several hockey tournaments, and were afforded amazing opportunities through the Pittsburgh Penguins. With more events taking place in the months to come, it doesn't look like we're slowing down any time soon.

It's a great time to be a part of the Johnstown Generals.

www.johnstowngenerals.com





TROOPERS HELPING TROOPERS

Returning to Hershey as reigning champs established a feeling the Generals weren't quite used to. After years of tournament play riddled by falling short, to now walk into the building as the team to beat - there was a big adjustment to be made. Yet, even with the added weight of being reigning champs, the Generals stayed the course and showed the tournament why they're champions. It would take several hard-fought games, but ultimately the Generals would find themselves in what is now becoming a familiar spot in Hershey...the PSP Cup Championship. In the end, the Generals' resolve would permit them to take this game too, marking another tournament win for the organization - and their first back-to-back.



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Malone Family Foundation Youth Hockey Clinic

Former NHL players Ryan and Greg Malone remain active in the hockey community, as well as within the veteran community. We've been fortunate enough to cross paths with them in events at PPG Paints Arena and our home ice 1st Summit Arena @ Cambria County War Memorial, and even more fortunate have been able to remain in contact.

Ryan and his father Greg established the Malone Family Foundation in 2014, aiming to support the community and the importance of mental health. Since its establishment, Ryan and Greg have hosted many events to support these initiatives, so when the opportunity arose for the Generals to do the same through a local youth hockey clinic, there was no passing it up.



The goals set forth by the Malone Family Foundation coincide so closely with the mission of the Generals, it was a natural fit. As if working side by side with the Malones wasn't rewarding enough, the Johnstown Tomahawks and the Johnstown Warriors also joined in, showing the power of our local hockey community.

With the forces of all four organizations combined, the first ever Battle Buddy Clinic was underway! Youth hockey players within the Johnstown Warriors were put through drills to test and improve their hockey skills.

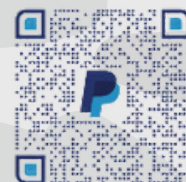
Under instruction from the Malones, Generals, and Tomahawks, the players walked out of the rink that day with what we can only hope is an experience they won't forget - we certainly won't.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS MILITARY SALUTE

By way of the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, three Generals were permitted the opportunity to be recognized through the Military Salute initiative this year. A program we've been fortunate enough to be a part of in the past presented itself to us once again this past spring. Army veteran T.J. Gnagey, Navy veteran Kobe Pasquerilla, and Marine veteran Daniel Bowen all received honors in their respective games. Through the Military Salute, the members are granted pregame dinner for two at the Lexus Club combined with two seats in the lower bowl of the arena.

These courtesies were then followed by a presentation around mid-second period, in which our veterans were displayed in a live shot while a background piece is announced about them. To cap off the experience, each veteran is also gifted a military-themed Pittsburgh Penguins jersey with their own last name stitched on the back.

This experience is one of a kind, and the gratitude each of us possesses for the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, and all other participating parties cannot be expressed enough. We thank you for your dedication and consideration to your veterans.



Toyota USAH Warrior Classic

The Generals participated in the inaugural Toyota USA Hockey Warrior Classic in April. The tournament took place in Wayne, NJ and consisted of 34 teams from around the country, grouped into six different tiers. A series of hard-fought games by the Generals would ultimately lead to qualification for the championship, and a top five finish in the Tier 2 division.

The tournament provided an outlet for the Generals to showcase their talent and generate new friendships. The opportunity to partake in this tournament was not taken for granted by the team, and they put forth some of their best hockey all weekend.

Thank you to USA Hockey for hosting such a memorable event.



JACOB HALE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT



The Jacob Hale Memorial Ice Hockey Tournament organized by our own Michael Murphy continues its annual success in the local area. Teams comprised of long-term friends and newfound teammates alike took to the ice in support of the cause. Amongst them, The Generals found another opportunity to hone their skills. Competition was high, and while the Generals found themselves in some tough matches, there was still plenty to take away from the experience.

Nonetheless, the tournament provided The Generals time to get together and catch up. Being a local tournament, familiar faces all around create a strong sense of community in the rink. Playing for something other than themselves promotes camaraderie amongst each team in attendance. This year's donation was provided to CJ's Choice, a non-profit organization created in memory of CJ Selfridge. The organization is designed to assist those who cannot afford to play hockey.

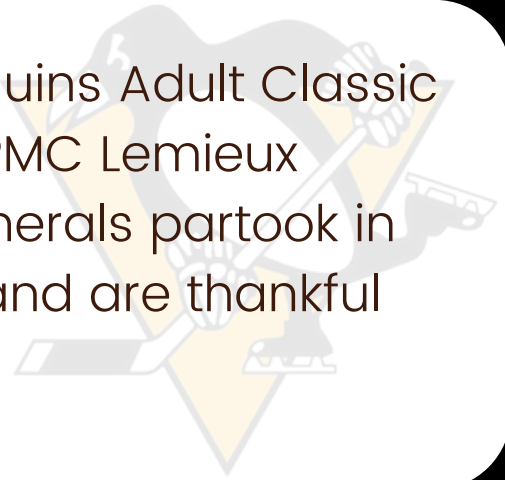
You're in our hearts forever, CJ.



**CJ'S
CHOICE**

Penguins Adult Classic

The Generals participated in the Penguins Adult Classic in April. All games were held at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry. The Generals partook in several days of intense competition, and are thankful for the opportunity to play!



Jr. Hawks

Jr. Hawks is a learn to play program for middle school aged players who didn't get the opportunity to play ice hockey. It is sponsored by GearUp4Kidz, the 23/24 Gunter Leadership Initiative and the Cambria County Regional Chamber - and was spearheaded by Matt Bender, Adam Rogers, Wes Strawn and Kathy West.

Donations were collected by various organizations to provide ice time, equipment, coaching, and other logistics. Jr. Hawks consisted of an 8 week program with coaching centered on ice-skating and hockey. 24 players registered for the program a majority stated they want to continue to play hockey in their respective school programs.

We hope to secure funding to be able to continue this program into the future and help build the local middle school hockey programs.

Player Spotlight – Kobe Pasquerilla #10

Pre-military Background:

I was born in Johnstown, PA in 1998 and attended high school at Richland. While growing up in Richland I played basketball, football, and hockey until my sophomore year, whereafter I continued to play only hockey. I was raised in a strong military family, and ultimately entered the Navy's Delayed Entry Program the summer before my junior year.

Military Career:

I officially enlisted in the Navy on July 31st, 2017, the summer after graduating high school. My MOS was in the Submarine Electronic Computer Field (SECF) and I was designated a rating as a Navigation Electronics Technician (ETV). I saw a fair share of success in my naval career, I graduated top of my class in school where I was awarded the Honor, Courage, and Commitment Award, and throughout my time on board I was able to progress to E-5 in three years. My division was named winner of Red and Green Navigation "N". Additionally, I acquired four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and I was also named Command Junior Sailor of the Quarter 4th QTR 2020 and again in 4th QTR 2021. I opted to separate from the Navy in 2022.



Civilian Life:

After separating from the Navy, I enrolled in school for Cyber Security through Penn State. I bought a house near Pittsburgh in December 2022, and have worked in roles as an electrical technician. I will graduate college with my bachelor's in Spring 2025.



Hockey:

I started playing hockey in 6th grade and spent many years playing for the Johnstown Warriors and my high school. Through the years, and I have been fortunate enough to win championships in both, and I am forever grateful the lessons and friends brought forth to me from hockey. After returning home from the Navy, I joined the Johnstown Generals, and have recently taken over as the Public Affairs Officer. I am appreciative of the opportunities the Generals have provided for me and I am happy to be able to do my part in return.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Black & Gold Breaking the Mold

May 15th @ City Winery in Pittsburgh

May 16th @ RMU Sports Complex

<https://events.handbid.com/lp/black-gold-breaking-the-mold/tickets>

Jennerstown Speedway

Veterans Village

May 18th @ Speedway Complex LLC

<https://opvetnow.org/jennerstown-goldstarnight>

Memorial Day Murph

May 27th 8AM @

Redemption Fitness Studio / Central Park

<https://www.facebook.com/share/VMt7rbP83ITmashR/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

Pittsburgh Heroes Cup

June 7th - 9th @ RMU Sports Complex

<https://pittsburghheroescup.com/>



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ABOUT US

Mission Statement

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CEO – John Kovac III
President – Franko Alexander
Vice President – Sean Mullen
Secretary – Chad Burnosky
Treasurer – Katie Urban
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