



Operation At Ease

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2023

SW Georgia Veterans & Families Alliance

A Newly formed coalition in Decatur County, joined together to create a road map of how to help Veterans in our community. Organized by the VA, the original focus of this committee was Veterans suicide. Though a tragic national issue, that requires continued training and awareness, it became apparent, that it was not a current main issue here in our area. Through our interactive meetings, it was determined that the main issue we are facing here is a lack of resources for Veterans in our rural community. In addition, there is limited availability of information and how to obtain the resources that are available.

Don and Patti have been active in this coalition from the start and created the Veterans Meet & Greet event held @ At Ease Campground the first Thursday each month. The coalition, our new relationship with members of the Veterans Affairs community and the Meet & Greets have been the catalyst to the progression for Operation At Ease.

We are excited to announce that we received notification on October 14th, that our nonprofit status for Operation At Ease, had been granted on September 20, 2023.

In the past few weeks we have had numerous things come together that has jump started our mission to create a Veterans Retreat & Activity Center. It took a little longer than we anticipated but it is formulating very quickly now.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a Retreat and Activity Center, that supports and honors the well being of our veterans, military, first responders and their families.

Our commitment is to create a welcoming environment to empower veterans to reclaim their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, while creating lasting connections and a sense of purpose.

To rediscover their strength, find solace, and embark on a meaningful journey towards a fulfilling post-service life.

An environment that fosters healing, healthy mindset, camaraderie, and personal growth... through a wide range of recreational activities, therapeutic programs, and community engagement.

[Links to New Website & Facebook](#)

[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)

90 Works - Helping At Risk Veterans

inbridge campground comes veteran refuge



A program for low income Veterans that provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of home, rapidly re-house Veterans and their families or identify a new, more suitable housing situation. Providing opportunities for at risk individuals to have a fresh start.

The At Ease facility has been inspected and approved to participate in the 90 Works program and our first guest is currently in the approval process with 90 works to be placed with us in the near future.

American Legion Post

On September 7th during our monthly Veterans Meet & Greet, the At Ease facility was visited by Commander Steven Reynolds of the American Legion. He joined 50+ local Veterans and spouses for dinner and discussed our possibility of forming a new Post on site.

He returned on October 6th, to start that process. He needed to interview 15 individuals willing to sign up that evening for the new post, so the original Charter Membership paperwork could be submitted. Over 60 people attended, 25 signed up that night and 6 more needed additional paperwork to complete the process.

This is very exciting to us, the potential to serve our Veteran community will be greatly enhanced with this association. Patti will be taking the VSO course through the VA, so we can assist Veterans on many levels.

We project to have 50 members by early 2024 when our formal charter will be approved.

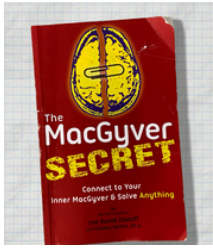
www.OperationAtEaseGeorgia.org

Recent Activity



Bass Master Elite Series visited Lake Seminole Feb. 22-24, 2023, it was exciting and we meet many great people during the event.

We spent time with Craig Lamb and Andy Crawford of BASS Magazine during that time and are honored that they choose to do an article about the history of Jack Wingate and our plans for At Ease Campground and Operation At Ease.



Over 40 veterans attended The MacGyver Secret seminars, held April 25 through May 7 here at At Ease Campground.

Lee Zlotoff writer of the original MacGyver television show, shared his process of how to unlock and listen to ones subconscious (Inner MacGyver), which can be utilized in almost every aspect of everyday life and dealing with past emotions. There will be another offering of these sessions in the Spring of 2024.



During the weekend of October 20th, the first ever retreat was conducted at At Ease Campground, honoring Women Veterans Unite. Eighteen women veterans ranging from Vietnam to Persian Gulf Wars attended, they enjoyed a lot of comradery and fellowship.

Numerous activities were provided, including massages, kayaking, campfires, fishing & sunset cruises.



Supporters, family and friends of American Legion Post Wingate Landing and Operation At Ease had the honor in participating in bringing The Vietnam Traveling Wall to the City of Bainbridge for display November 2 - 6, 2023. Many participated in the motorcycle escort, assembly of the wall and helping to man the display 24/7 during its visit.

Operation At Ease was honored with a donation from the Decatur County Historical and Genealogy Society for its participation and support of The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall.

Veterans Day Weekend 2023 began with Founder, Don and Patti Fabian as the Keynote speakers of the city of Bainbridge ceremony.

Saturday, November 11th, a Flag Retirement Ceremony was conducted during a community block party.

Sunday, November 12th, Operation At Ease and The 40 and 8 hosted the second annual Grand Slam Tournament. It was a cold morning, preceded by a rainy night, but that didn't stop the hardy 11 boats of anglers and veterans from taking to Lake Seminole to support our veteran programs!

Megan (AF Veteran) and Pat Langerich won the Grand Slam & Catfish Tournaments.

