



THE NEXT MISSION

Finding the Healing Right in Front of Us

What if we have been looking for solutions to Veteran wellness in the wrong places?

This manifesto is not a policy paper.

It is not a strategic plan.

It is a challenge to rethink how we approach Veteran wellness, connection, purpose, and belonging.

It is informed by Veterans, lived experience, and the lessons learned from those who continue to navigate life after service.



The Next Mission – Manifesto

A declaration of what we believe.

We believe Veterans are not defined by the challenges they face, but by the strength, resilience, and capacity they bring to overcoming them.

We recognize that military service creates bonds, purpose, identity, and structure that are difficult to replace when service ends.

We believe many Veterans are not struggling because they lack strength.

We recognize that when service ends, the mission changes, the team disperses, and the framework that once provided direction is no longer clearly defined.

We believe the loss of connection, purpose, and belonging has contributed to the isolation and disconnection many Veterans experience after service.

We believe connection is not a luxury.

It is a requirement.

We believe prevention begins long before crisis. It begins before any problems arise.

It begins at the gym.

At the racetrack.

At the concert.

At the range.

At the volunteer event.

At the community gathering.

It begins wherever veterans naturally gather.

We believe sports, music, service, and community are not distractions from wellness.

They are a doorway to connection, purpose, and community long before support may be needed.

We believe veterans deserve opportunities to compete, create, serve, mentor, lead, and belong.

We believe Veterans are more than their challenges. Support should include their goals, aspirations, talents, passions, and potential.

We believe every community should have a place where veterans can reconnect without stigma.

We believe every veteran deserves to have their next mission supported.

We believe "Be There for Our Veterans" is not a slogan.

It is a responsibility.

We believe healing is not found in isolation.

It is found in motion.

It is found in rhythm.

It is found in community.

The next mission belongs to all of us.

Operation Vet NOW

Be There for Our Veterans

Learn more, read the Executive Summary, and join the conversation:

<https://opvetnow.org/next-mission>