

August | 2023

NEWSLETTER

HEAL★ARIOUS

COMEDY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE



CONTESTANT



MONICA DALY
@MOLDAVITE_SOFA
Army Veteran
Vienna, VA



Jul 29 • Fayetteville, NC

Congratulations
to U.S. Army
Veteran

**Monica
Daly**

The winner of our
Fayetteville
Competition

OPERATION HEAL★ARIOUS

FIND AMERICA'S FUNNIEST VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES!

Upcoming Shows

Sept. 10- Newport News, VA
Cozy's Comedy Club: 7:00 PM
9700 Warwick Blvd,
Newport News, VA 23601

Sept. 15- Killeen, TX
8 - 9:30pm CDT
American Legion J.Q. Adams
Post 223 208 South Park Street
Killeen, TX 76541

Save the Date

Oct. 21- Charleston, SC

Nov. 5- Hollywood, CA

Nov. 9- Las Vegas, NV

details coming at
www.bestmedicinebrigade.com



BE THE ONE



AMERICAN LEGION

August | 2023

NEWSLETTER



Comedians shine during Operation Heal*arious event at Texas post

SAN ANTONIO WINNERS

By Henry Howard, Jul. 16, 2023

Jeremy Jonas, an Army veteran who served from 1995-2004, saw comedy as something new to try during the pandemic. “Comedy seemed like something to do to get out of the house,” he deadpanned. “I always liked writing but you sit in your closet writing for hours and nobody reads it. In comedy, you get immediate feedback.”

Jonas received immediate feedback from the judges during the Operation Heal*arious semifinal round July 15, hosted by American Legion Alamo Post 2 in San Antonio. As the winner of the contest, Jonas now advances to one of two championship rounds this fall that will crown two winners in the competition to find America’s funniest veteran or military spouse.

He delivers his comedy – and interviews – with a tongue-in-cheek sarcastic wit. What was his first time on stage like? “It was amazing, got a standing ovation, everybody thought I was very funny, got a contract immediately from Netflix,” Jonas says, pausing. “It was awful. It’s always terrible, very bad. It was embarrassing, a lot of shame, a lot of hidden sorrow.”

During his performance, he entertained more than 200 veterans, family members and others at the post. This was the first Heal*arious comedy show hosted by an American Legion post.

The competition was so close that a special Golden Ticket was awarded, which means Navy spouse Sean Flanagan, of Boston, will also be advancing to the finals.

“It’s really exciting that this competition is for military spouses,” he said. “My husband and I have been together for 7 ½ years.”

Flanagan found his path to comedy after working in the corporate world. “I’m a recovering tech worker. The only part of my job I liked was the public speaking and presentation part of it.”

While living in New York City, he took a comedy workshop, and continued on that path. Like a “fish out of water” is how Flanagan describes his brand of comedy.

“Coming to comedy late in life, and coming out as gay later in life, there’s a lot of material there,” he said, noting they are based in Tokyo now. “My husband is out at sea right now for six weeks. It’s really an opportunity for me to focus on my career now. It would be really easy to be lonely and miss him, which I do. But I am able to turn my attention toward this and pursue my own goals.”

Scan QR Code for full story



Other finalists selected so far include:

- Army veteran Chris Karwoski, who won the inaugural competition April 1 at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio.
- Army spouse Gigi Bledsoe.
- Air Force veteran Jeff Norris, who won the event in Tacoma, Wash., after also participating in the April 1 contest.
- Marine veteran Stephanie Kline.

August | 2023

NEWSLETTER



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



**VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY
SERVICEMEMBERS**

JOIN TODAY!



SCAN QR CODE ABOVE OR VISIT LEGION.ORG/BMB

*A portion of each membership fee goes toward the
HEAL*ARIOUS Mission using this link!*



TRIPLE
NIKEL



SCAN FOR BEST MEDICINE
BRIGADE MERCH!

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!!



SCAN TO DONATE
TO HEAL*ARIOUS!

