SPECIAL 41ST EDITION VETERANS DAY

NVFNEWSLETTER

THE LIFELINE FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS

VETERANS DAY 2026

NVF's 41st Anniversary — October 10th at Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles

The NVF celebrates 41 years of service to veterans and their families. Momentous, don't you think? Calling for a change of pace, maybe something we hadn't done before to give our supporters first, an opportunity to celebrate with us and to donate to the Lifeline for Vets crisis and information line.



We picked the date, October 10th. And the place: historic Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in downtown Los Angeles. We decided to celebrate in a totally different way and we wanted to have some fun! Something Vets, their families and our supporters would enjoy. Starting with FREE hotdogs (and plenty of them!), and a whole afternoon of games, activities, stand-up comics and a dunk tank!

Brainstorming our celebration started with food. Costco generously donated hot dogs, which were grilled by staffers. All the fixings were set out so hungry guests could get creative. The event started at 11AM and ran until 5PM. Expected celebrity guests included Ed Gauge, and Jean-Pierre Giagnoli, both of whom you will have seen in Star Wars movies. Also present, Justin Cowden, whose voice you will recognize from his voiceover work on "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy." Families and fans mingled and took advantage of photo Opps along with a chance to meet these talented people.

The parking lot offered games for young and old: Football and Basketball Toss, Viking Axe Throwing, and spooky Halloween games in an inflatable arena. There were carnival games like 3-in-1 Pop Balloons and Knock over Bottles games. Most popular was our Dunk Tank.

Inside and onstage, well-known comics Eddie West, Wi-Fi, Drew Martinez, the famous George Wang, and Chuco da Savage performed in the auditorium in revolving 30-minute sets. It was a great day for all.

Thanks to all the wonderful people who came together and made this happen, especially the generosity of our celebrity guests.

Ongoing Outreach



Chaplain Torie Russell at the Long Beach Rescue Mission receives donated air purifiers from the NVF.



Jesse Scott — NVF Outreach Worker preparing donations for My Friend's House Foundation, Downtown Los Angeles

Widening Our Reach with Pass-Through Donation

One of the ways the National Veterans Foundation supports Veterans and their families is through pass-through donations to other veterans services agencies.

As an example, a company might donate overstock to the NVF. We received a donation of air purifiers that we "passed" to the Long Beach Rescue Mission. Individuals sometimes donate furniture to the NVF. We store it in a warehouse until we have a Veteran who has just received housing and has no furnishings. A manufacturer of backpacks might donate old stock that is brand new but outdated. We might distribute it at a Veterans Standdown or a homeless shelter for Vets.

Donations of water and non-perishable food items are distributed during our Outreach Missions to places where homeless Veterans congregate. It starts conversations. In this way we build relationships based on trust that can lead to our helping a Vet access VA benefits, housing or job training.



Outreach Recon — Downtown Los Angeles



Sunset Boulevard — Downtown Los Angeles outreach

Vietnam Veterans of America Recognizes NVF Founder



Shad Meshad receives his Excellence in the Sciences Award

The National Veterans Foundation is proud to announce President Floyd "Shad" Meshad has received the 2026 Vietnam Veterans of America Excellence in the Sciences Award for his groundbreaking work on post-traumatic stress disorder. The award was presented on August 15, during the Vietnam Veterans of America National Leadership & Education Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

Shad began his work as a psych officer in Vietnam. He was honored for his pioneering contributions to the understanding and treatment of combat-related trauma. For decades, he has been a leading advocate for Veterans experiencing the psychological effects of war, especially post-traumatic stress disorder. His work began at a time when PTSD was not yet widely understood and when many Vietnam Veterans struggled to find meaningful support after returning home. Receiving this award from Vietnam Veterans of America makes the recognition especially meaningful.

The award recognizes not only his professional accomplishments, but also the impact his work has had on generations of Veterans. It recognizes a lifetime dedicated to understanding, supporting, and standing beside America's Veterans.

Getting Ready for Giving Tuesday

Veterans Day always stirs memories, bringing an increase in calls to our crisis and information hotline, the Lifeline for Vets, now in its 42nd year.

With the current world political situation, 50,000 US troops are now deployed to the Middle East and are facing extended deployments. It's important now that we keep the Lifeline for Vets well-staffed and available during extended hours. We need to meet that demand.

Help us be there for them. Your donation now will help us prepare for that increase. Send a message to our Veterans that we honor their service and dedication.

Donate securely on our website, www.nvf.org, today or make a plan to donate on Giving Tuesday, December 1, when the whole world gives back.

Join us to support and care for the men and women who dedicate themselves to our country. They're counting on all of us…

GIVING TUESDAY

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CHARITY NAVIGATOR
Four Star Charity

…our ratings show charitable givers/ social investors how efficiently we believe a charity will use their support today, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time, and their level of commitment to good governance, best practices, and openness with information."

--Charity Navigator.org

The NVF is proud to have earned eight 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator.

Since 1985, The National Veterans Foundation (NVF) has been a leading resource for more than 550,000 Veterans and their family members. Our experienced team of trained professionals includes Veterans of Veteram, the Cold War, Iraq and Afghanistan who understand first-hand the issues facing today's Veterans and their families. Our sole purpose is to help you get the help you need as quickly as possible.

MISSION OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS FOUNDATION

To serve the crisis management, information and referral needs of all U.S. Veterans and their Families through:

- Operation of the nation's first vet-to-vet toll-free helpline for all Veterans and their families.
- Public awareness programs that shine a consistent public spotlight on the human needs facing American Veterans and their families.
- Ongoing outreach to connect homeless and low income Veterans with food, clothing, transportation and other essential resources.

The National Veterans Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

OUR TEAM:

Shad Meshad: *MSW,LCSW,CTS,TFTdx: President*
Nicholas Piazza: *Director of Operations*
Cathie Sandstrom: *Director of Communications/Editorial*
Gerald Hillard Jr: *Resources Specialist*
James White: *Prison Outreach Coordinator*
Nick Lenard: *Information Services*
Louis Geiger Jr.: *InformationServices*
Markham Anderson:*Information Services*
Kathleen Reilly: *Information Services*

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