



VALLEY of CANTON SUPPORTING THE MILITARY

The A.A.S.R Valley of Canton is a staunch supporter of our Military Community. The Valley currently has 158 members who have registered as a veteran in j365, of which 5 are on active duty; sadly 23 are deceased. These Brother Veterans are recognized each November at or near Veterans Day by having a special program for our Veterans. It is held in place of the Valley's Stated November Meeting.

The Valley held its first Veterans Day recognition program in November of 2016, when the Fraternity held a nationwide day to honor all our veterans. The Valley of Canton had as guest speaker Brother Donald E. Ballard, Medal of Honor recipient. In honor of the occasion, there was a dinner, and entertainment was provided by the Hall of Fame Chorus.

The Valley did not hold another program until 2019. The key note speaker for this Veterans Recognition program was Colonel Dominic S. Fago, the Commander of the 179th Airlift Wing Maintenance Group, Ohio National Guard, Mansfield, Ohio. As part of the November 14TH Stated Meeting, the Valley of Canton Honored its Veterans by formally recognizing their service to our country by presenting them with the Sammy Lee Davis Lapel Pin and Certificate. A buffet dinner preceded the festivities.

The next Veterans Recognition program was not until 2021, as 2020 was closed due to COVID-19. On Veterans Day, November 11th the Valley of Canton held its third Veterans Recognition Event for all member Veterans. This was an open event with Hot Hors D'oeuvres available, and special speaker, the Valley's Bro. Donald Ballard, Medal of Honor Recipient. Each attending Veteran received a commemorative Masonic coin showing each of the Military Branches on one side and the Square and Compass on the other side. They were also given a Patriotic Tote Bag made by students of a local middle school.

On November 10th, 2022, the Valley of Canton held its fourth Recognition observance for all its Veteran members. This was in place of the normal Stated Meeting. This event was open to the public and consisted of a Buffet Dinner along with Mrs. De Ann Williams, Executive Director for the Stark County Veterans Service Commission as the guest speaker. Each Veteran present received a mug with an emblem of his Military branch on one side and the Scottish Rite emblem on the other side. Brother Donald E. Ballard, Medal of Honor recipient and Valley member was also in attendance for this occasion.

On November 9, 2023, the fifth Veterans Recognition Program was held. The Program began with Brother Ernest Kuley and Ms. Kim Meeks playing the Bagpipes, entertaining us with a number of patriotic tunes. The program continued with a Buffett Dinner and a special guest speaker, Brigadier General Thomas P. Luczynski Retired. The program also included the presentation of his White Hat and Jewel to Ill. Donald E. Ballard, 33°, Medal of Honor, by Ill Frank L. Sekeres, 33°, Deputy's Representative to the Valley of Canton

Those Veteran members in attendance, were each recognized and received a Garden Flag showing the "Valley of Canton" and their Service Branch, along with a License Plate showing the same. Ill Donald E. Ballard, 33°, MoH presented each Veteran a "SRNMJ Veterans Ribbon."

The Valley membership has shown its support in many different ways. Brother Sherman Brick, MSA is one of the 5 Commissioners for the Veterans Service Commission of Stark County. Brother Timothy Novelli, Doctor of Chiropractic started the Patriot Project, a 501 C (3) non-Profit Organization over 11 years ago in North Canton, Ohio. Today there are approximately 9,000 Chiropractors (nationwide) that are part of this program. The Patriot Program provides free chiropractic treatment to all Active Military, Veterans, and First responders who were injured while on duty. The program also includes Gold Star Families. Another Masonic Brother, in 2015, Veteran Bryan Bowman started the SAM Center (Serving Area Military and Veterans) a 501 C (3) nonprofit organization serving veterans in a 5-county area. Their objective is to provide food by means of food distribution.

The Ill. Sammy Lee Davis, 33° Defender of Peace and Freedom veterans recognition program is offered to Scottish Rite, NMJ members honorably discharged from the United States Military or Uniformed Services; also included is current active duty members.

Make sure the Supreme Council has your updated service information by going to the member center on the NMJ website and updating it, or notify your Valley Office of the information. Have your date of induction and date of discharge available. Veterans will receive a custom-designed pin and certificate to commemorate their military service and to honor their dedication to the core values of 32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry.



Brother Colonel Donald E Ballard, Medal of Honor Recipient, was the Valleys guest speaker to commemorate Scottish Rite Day, when all Valley's from both the Northern and Southern Jurisdiction came together to celebrate the Scottish Rite and honor our Veterans. It was the first time the Fraternity held such a nationwide day of honor.

The Valley of Canton presented a plaque to Brother Ballard to commemorate the occasion.



The key note speaker at the Veterans Recognition Program was Colonel Dominic S. Fago, the Commander of the 179th Airlift Wing Maintenance Group, Ohio National Guard, Mansfield, Ohio.



Senior MSG Derick Netzly with Colonel Fago. Bro. Derick was instrumental in bringing Colonel Dominic Fago to the Veterans Program as the key note speaker.

"A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers"

Preisident John F. Kennedy



On Veterans Day, November 11th, the Valley of Canton held a Veterans Recognition Event for all member Veterans at the regular stated meeting. This was an open event with Hot Hors D’oeuvres available, and special speaker, the Valley’s Bro. Donald Ballard, Medal of Honor Recipient.

Each attending Veteran received a commemorative Masonic coin showing each of the Military Branches on one side and the Square and Compass on the other side.



L-R: Bro. Donald E. Ballard, Medal of Honor, Guest speaker Mrs. De Ann Williams Executive Director for the Stark County Veterans Service Commission, and Bro. Sherman Brick, MSA, Board Member of the Stark County Veterans Service Commission



L-R: Todd Onesti, S.P., Donald Ballard, MoH, holding his commemorative mug, Daniel Schario, M.W.M., Benjamin Kois, T.P.M., William Rodgers, MSA



Ill. Thomas Hutchins, 33^o receiving a commemorative Masonic/Military coin from Bro. Donald Ballard, MoH. WB. Joe Fye, handed out a Patriotic tote bag. in the background is Theodore Rhodes, reading the names of the Veterans in attendance. William Rodgers, MSA, is holding coins.

“Throughout our history, many men and women sacrificed the utmost for our great country and the freedoms we are privileged to enjoy. Always remember and honor our fallen comrades.”

Michael E. Thornton, U.S. Navy, Medal of Honor

November 9, 2023 Veterans Program

The Veterans recognition program was held on November 9th with guest speaker Brigadier General Thomas P. Luczynski, Retired from the Ohio National Guard



Brigadier General Thomas P. Luczynski addressing the night's guests. He addressed the attendees about his adventures during the Vietnam war



Pipers Ms. Kim Meeks and Brother Ernest B. Kuley, 32°, provided the night's entertainment by playing different military songs on the Bagpipes



Each Veteran received a Garden Flag showing the "Valley of Canton" and their Service Branch, along with a License Plate showing the same, and a "SRNMJ Veterans Ribbon."



At the annual meeting of the Supreme Council, NMJ held on August 29, 2023 in Louisville, Kentucky, Bro. Donald E. Ballard, MOH was coroneted a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33°, making him an honorary member of the Supreme Council, NMJ..

Ill. Frank L. Sekeres, 33° placing the White Hat on Ill. Donald E. Ballard, 33°, MoH.



The above group picture represents the 56 veterans in attendance at the Valley of Canton's November 9th Veterans Program at the Canton Masonic Temple. There were approximately 168 in total attendance for this program.

Army	34
Marine Corps	3
Navy	9
Air Force	9
Coast Guard	1

TOTAL VETERANS ...56

"Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."
President Abraham Lincoln



MASONS SUPPORTING THE MILITARY

Brother Novelli has assembled 11 Medal of Honor recipients as Board Members, along with corporate leaders, all who are very passionate in this cause. One of the very active Board Members is Ill. Donald E. Ballard, 33°, MoH of the Valley of Canton. Along with “Doc” Ballard, there are a number of other Valley Brothers who are active volunteers for The Patriot Project: William Rodgers, MSA, Sherman Brick, MSA, Terry Rundquist, 33°, Daniel Schario, 33° Brennan Wallick, MSA, William Bird, MSA. Other volunteers include Blue Star Mothers, a Retired Fire Chief, and National Guard members.

The Patriot Project is seeking to have chiropractic physicians commissioned in the military and to have active chiropractic care available in every VA Hospital. It is important to offer our active-duty soldiers’ non-drug, nonsurgical treatment for their pain. Doctors of Chiropractic offer such care with attention to optimal function and health of the whole person.

As a nonprofit, the Patriot Project relies on tax deductible donations and the Yearly Military Ball held at the Canton Civic Center to raise funds. These funds support over \$100,000,000.00 in free chiropractic care to our most deserving Americans.



The VIP Group at the Patriot Project Ball



A view of the beginning of the Patriot Project Ball at the Canton Civic Center. Approximate number of guest numbered over 800.

PATRIOT PROJECT BALL



Donald E. Ballard, 33° MoH with Clinton I. Romesha, SSGT U.S. Army Ret. MoH, Melvin Morris, SSGT U.S. Army Ret. MoH and Bro. Timothy Novelli before the Ball



L- R; Donald Ballard, 33°, MoH, Clinton Romesha, MoH, Fred Gregory, Shuttle Commander
Standing- Sherman Brick, MSA



Ted Howenstine, 33°, Frank Sekeres, 33°, Jim Fidler, 33° attended the Patriot Project Military Ball



L-R: Patricia Comanitz, Daniel Schario, 33°, WB David Reed, Amber Reed.



The goal of the Patriot Project is to see chiropractic care available to all military and their families, wounded veterans and Gold Star Dependents.



Brennan Wallick, MSA, as the live auctioneer with Clinton Romesha, MoH at the Military Ball



Frank Sekeres, 33°, Donald Ballard, 33°, MoH, Bro. Lucas Dunaway, Bro. Derek Netzly at the Ball.



Bro. Timothy Novelli with Gary Littrell, U.S. Army Ret. Command Sergeant Major, MoH



4 Navy Seals, L-R: MCPO Danny Nesbit, CPO Frank Hoagland, Senator, William Rodgers, MSA Patriot Project Volunteer Ret. CMDCM Hershel Davis, Ret. CPO Floyd McLandon, Jr. Director of Institutional Advancement for Parker University.



Henry Hilger, MSA with his lady Joan at the Military Ball.



Ted Howenstine, 33° and Sherman Brick, MSA



SERVING AREA MILITARY & VETERANS (SAM CENTER)

Brother Bryan Bowman's SAM Center (Serving Area Military and Veterans) is located in Massillon, Ohio. Its objective is to provide food by means of food distribution. In 2022, the SAM Center provided more than 600,000 pounds of food for veteran families while helping 102 homeless veterans transition to housing.

The SAM Center provides a complete holiday meal for Veteran Families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Center also provides toys at Christmas for families. This year, the SAM Center handed out over 500 complete turkey dinners for Thanksgiving on November 21, 2023. The next big event was the toy give away and Christmas dinner hand out in mid-December. Just this year, the SAM Center opened a second facility as a Veterans Resource Center. There, veterans participate in guitar and art therapy programs as well as a meeting place for veterans to be together.

The SAM Center provides veterans with other resources by hosting Veterans Resource Fairs throughout the year. Valley members volunteer to help the organization throughout the year at the different events. The Patriot Project also participates in these Veterans Resource Fairs and at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival



The SAM Center located in Massillon, Ohio next to the Massillon American Legion Post 221



Brother Bryan Bowman, Founder of the SAM Center, with Donald E. Ballard, 33°, MoH at the Sam Center.



Joanne Rodgers at the SAM Center Christmas toy give away on December 19, 2023.

This is a yearly event to support the Veteran community in need. The toys are donated by the public.



Joanne Rodgers holds winter coats that are given to needy Veterans during the Christmas give away. Veterans also can pick up socks and gloves at this time.



A picture of the amount of food staged at the American Legion Post 221 for distribution at Thanksgiving of 2022, to area needy veterans. The veterans receive up to 75 pounds of groceries along with hygiene products.



Staging of the toys for the 2023 Christmas toy give away. The veterans can pick out a number of toys for each child in their immediate family.





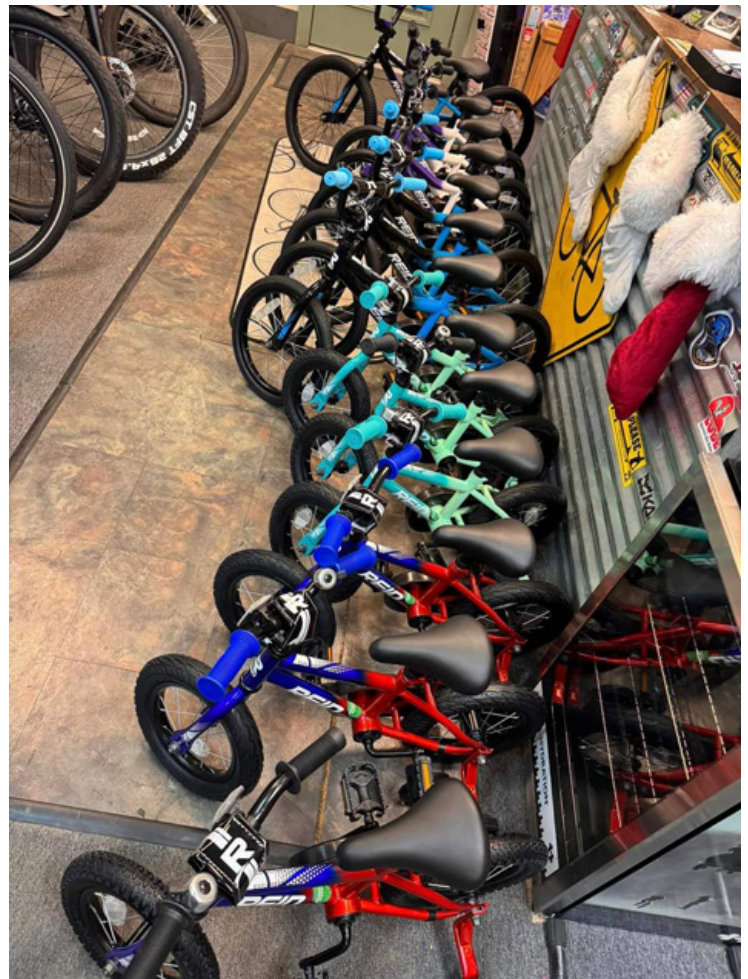
Staging of red groceries bags for the 2023 Thanksgiving meal give away. Each bag holds about 25 pounds of food.



Each veteran received a turkey for Thanksgiving. These are turkeys staged outside the SAM Center on giveaway day in 2023.



Brother Bryan Bowmen (right side) with a donor holding one of the many donated bicycles that are made available for the toy give away



A number of new bicycles staged for the 2023 SAM Center Christmas toy giveaway. Veterans can choose the size of bicycle their child can use.

The SAM Center allows Veteran families in need the opportunity to “shop” for Christmas. We empower them by allowing them to pick their children’s presents.

Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends. The SAM Center has ensured over 175 veterans were able to spend Thanksgiving with family and friends. That’s why every veteran receives a 10-14 lb. turkey and all the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving dinner.



During the year, there are a number of Veterans Resource Fairs held in the tri county area that are hosted by different organizations supporting our Military Veterans. This includes the Sam Center. A number of volunteers at these fairs are veterans. The Patriot Project also participates in these Veterans Resource Fairs and at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival.



Veterans Resource held in Twinsburg, Ohio in 2021 sponsored by Ashler Lodge 639, American Legion Post 9215, and VFW Post 4929. This fair was held at Twinsburg High School. The Patriot Project was represented by Bill Rodgers, MSA and Bro. Mike Scott, U.S. Navy. MCPO Ret.



Patriot Project at the Resource Fair held at the MAPS museum in 2021 with L-R Mark Martin, Bill Rodgers, MSA, Bro. Tim Novelli, Joanne Rodgers & Terry Rundquist, 33°. The Veterans Resource Fair is sponsored by the MAPS Center.



The SAM Center 2022 Resource Fair held at the MAPS Museum with the Patriot Project. Pictured are Mark Martin and Joanne Rodgers, Patriot Project volunteers.



Veterans Resource Fair held at the Military Aviation Preservation Society (MAPS) sponsored by the SAM Center. Pictured L-R Mark Martin, Ret. Perry Twp Fire Chief, Bro. Timothy Novelli, founder of The Patriot Project, William Rodgers, MSA, Patriot Project volunteer.

With so many resources available to veterans, the key is navigating and connecting veterans with their benefits. The SAM Center's annual Veterans' Resource Fair is about bringing resources to our veterans.



Aerial view of the 2020 Veterans Resource Fair sponsored by the SAM Center held at the MAPS Museum in Canton,



L-R: Dr. Tim Novelli, Bill Rodgers, Senator Bob Kerry, MoH, Joanne Rodgers, Michael Thornton, MoH, Mark Martin Ret. Perry Fire Chief.



The Blue Star Mothers, along side the Patriot Project, at a Veterans Resource Fair held at Lock 3 in Akron, Ohio. This fair was sponsored by Rolling Thunder Ohio 2 Motorcycle group. Pictured is Joanne Rodgers and Melissa Wise with the Patriot Project.



At the Pro Hall of Fame Fun Fest, L-R Mike Thornton, Medal of Honor, Bill Rodgers, Jim McCloughan, Medal of Honor, Background: Terry Rundquist.





Ill. Donald E. Ballard, 33°

The Valley of Canton is honored to have as a member in Scottish Rite, only one of two Medal of Honor Recipients in both the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions.

Ill. Donald E. Ballard, 33° is a retired Colonel of the Kansas National Guard and former member of the United States Navy. When serving as a Hospital Corpsman attached to a Marine Company during the Vietnam War, he received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty. He is one of two Navy Corpsman still alive that received the Medal of Honor.

Donald E. Ballard is a member of Blue Springs Lodge #0337 of Kansas City, Kansas. He became a member of the Valley of Canton during the Fall Reunion, November 9, 2019. At the annual meeting of the Supreme Council, NMJ held on August 29, 2023 in Louisville, Kentucky, Bro. Donald E. Ballard, MOH was coroneted a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33°, making him an honorary member of the Supreme Council, NMJ.

Ill. Donald Ballard, 33° is very active representing the Valley of Canton at different activities in the Canton Community when he is in town. "Doc" Ballard has attended every Veterans Recognition program at the Valley since 2019.



246 th Fall Reunion November 9, 2019
Pictured candidate Donald E. Ballard, MoH with Class Honoree Ill. Thomas G. Hutchins, 33° and Valley Officers; L-R, Bradley R. Harp, T.P.M, Brennan R. Wallick S.P., Scott A. Garan M.W.M., Stephen P. Warren C.in C.



The Patriot Project at the Football Hall of Fame Funfest.
L-R: Sherman Brick, MSA, Clinton Romesha, MoH, Donald Ballard, 33°, MoH, William Rodgers, MSA, in back Bro. Mike Scott.



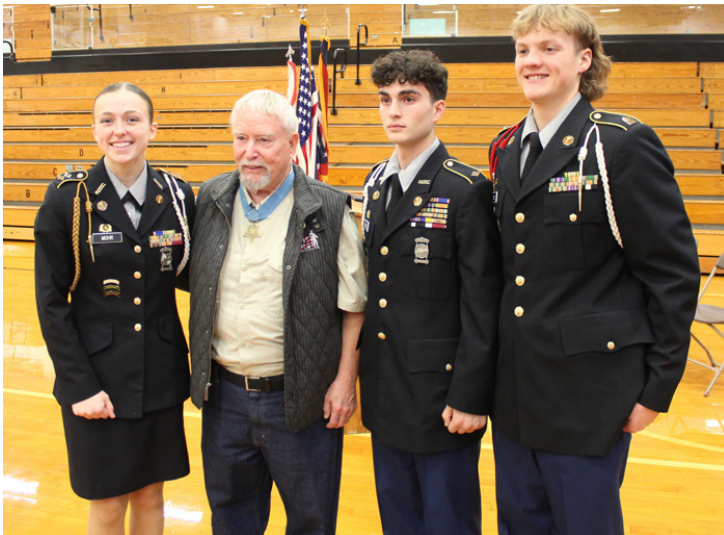
The Purple Heart dedication in North Canton, Ohio. Pictured L-R. David Held, Mayor of North Canton, Donald E. Ballard, 33° MoH, Clinton Romesha, MoH



Perry High School, Massillon Ohio Veterans Day Program 2023, Donald Ballard, 33°, MoH was the key note speaker at the assembly



The Perry High School JrROTC Battalion with William Rodgers, MSA and Donald “Doc” Ballard, 33°, MoH in the center. This was during their Veterans Day Program in 2023.



“Doc” Ballard, 33°, MoH with Battalion Officers of Perry H.S. JrROTC



Donald Ballard, 33° at the Perry H.S. memorial, saluting the fallen heroes who were graduates from the high school.



“Doc” Ballard was a Hospital Corpsman. Here he is visiting the MASH exhibit at the MAPS museum in Canton, Ohio and checking on a patient. He is also standing by a Medic Jeep.



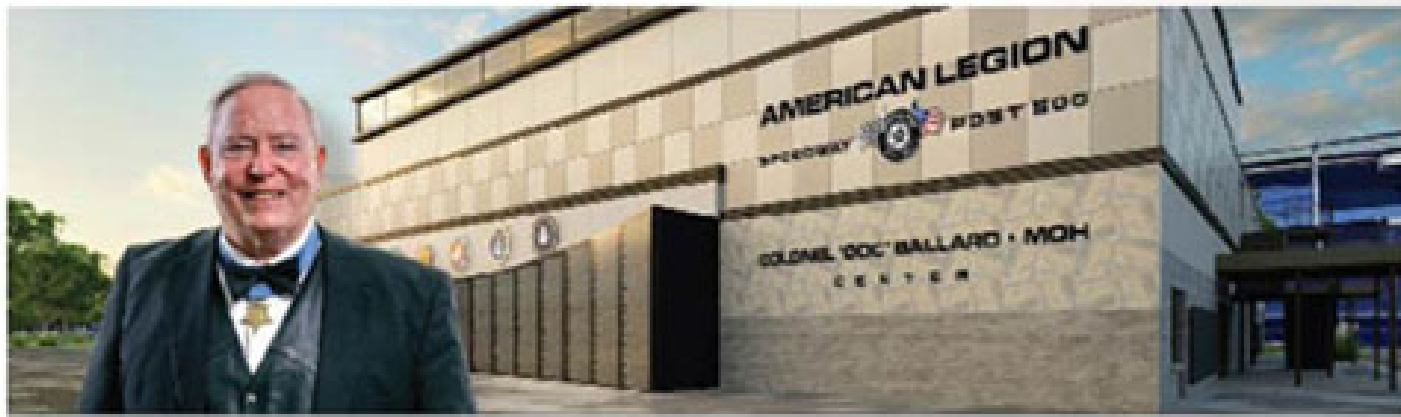
Commander Johnette Lawson
is honored to announce the

Saturday
NOVEMBER 11, 2023

AMERICAN LEGION

SPEEDWAY  POST 500

**COLONEL 'DOC' BALLARD • MOH
C E N T E R**



Honoring His Legacy & Inspiring the Future

Colonel Ballard is our nations only Medal of Honor recipient funeral home director. He has made it his mission to ensure our nations forgotten Veterans have a final resting place of Honor. The Unclaimed Heroes Project ensures his legacy will continue through American Legion Speedway Post 500.



Doc Ballard by the Woody Williams, MoH exhibit at the MAPS Museum in Canton, Ohio. It shows an autographed flamethrower by Williams who handled one as a Marine and received his Medal of Honor in combat on Iwo Jima. On June 29, 2022, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel Woody Williams would go to his final duty station in Heaven. He was the oldest Medal of Honor Recipient living at the time of his death.



Hershel "Woody" Williams, MoH at the dedication of the Gold Star Memorial at Wise Park in North Canton, Ohio. The Woody Williams Foundation is a charitable 501c (3) organization that pursues specific endeavors and goals through the vision of Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams. The Foundation encourages, with the assistance of the American public and community leaders, establishing permanent Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in communities throughout the United States, conducting Gold Star Families Outreach across the country, and providing Living Legacy scholarships to eligible Gold Star Family members.