



BOOTS ON THE GROUND NEWS LETTER



Veteran's Coalition Foundation Inc.

October 1, 2022 Atlanta Georgia

VETERANS COALITION FOUNDATION HOLDS IT'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

The Veterans Coalition Foundation held it's "Annual Awards Dinner" on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at Der Biergarten Restaurant in Atlanta, Ga. Present were many dignitaries from Georgia state and local government entities, dignitaries representing Veteran Service Organizations with-in the State of Georgia, representatives of The Coalition's many corporate partners among other invited guests.

The Coalitions "Bronze Boot Award" was given to the following recipients in recognition of their dedication and service to veterans and their families during the past year. Commissioner Patricia Ross of The Georgia Department of Veterans Services, Reaganne Coile, Governor Brian Kemp's Veterans Services Liaison, Georgia State Senator Michael "DOC" Rhett of the 33rd District, Georgia State Senator Ed Harbison, Ga 15th District, and The Coalitions Host for the awards dinner, and owner of Der Biergarten Restaurant, Wolfgang Hartert for his support of veteran's projects during the year. Senator Dr. Kay Kirkpatrick, Georgia 32nd District, also spoke to the attendees.

Those present dined on traditional German fair including Wiener Schnitzel with Hunter Sauce, varieties of traditional German sausages, roasted beef, varieties of German cheeses and traditional roasted pork.

After dinner those present participated in the Traditional "Tapping of the Keg Ceremony" signifying the beginning of the "Annual October Fest" celebrations.

Certificates of recognition where also presented to The Coalition's Corporate Partners. The recipients were Humana Corporation, Wellness Diagnostics, LegalShield Corporation, Diamond Amusements, Water's Edge Roofing and Tom's Entertainment.

Dr. Winona Franklin, Director of The Atlanta Georgia Veteran's Center, received an award of recognition from The Coalition Foundation for her dedicated work serving veteran's and their families.

Anthony Cooper, PhD, Chief of Voluntary Services, U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, received "Special Recognition" from The Coalition Foundation for his outstanding service to veterans and veteran service organizations during the past year.

George Canavaggio was presented with a Special Proclamation, signed by Governor Brian Kemp, honoring his retirement after 30 years of service to veterans and their families during his career with the Georgia Department of Veteran's Services.



**Reaganne Coile,
Governor Kemp's
Veteran's Policy
Advisor.**



**From left to right: Commissioner
Patricia Ross, D.J. Keenan and Joel
Willis.**



**Great German
food was enjoyed
by all.**



**Wolfgang Hartert, owner of Der
Biergarten Restaurant, and his wife,
Laura, with Director, Joel Willis**



Humana Corporation received a “Certificate of Appreciation” for their support of The Veterans Coalition Foundation. Pictured above with Director Willis are, from left to right, Karen Osmon, Chris Mercer and Alan Eden of Humana Corporation



Georgia State Senator, Dr. Kay Kirkpatrick was a guest speaker.



Director Willis Tapping the keg for the beginning of the Octoberfest celebration



Pictured with Board Member’s Joel Willis and Wilbert Jordan is Dr. Winona Franklin, Director of The Atlanta Vets Center.

Veteran's Coalition Foundation



**Veterans Coalition Board of Directors. From left to right:
Harold Watkins, Wilbert Jordan, Joel Willis, Drew Keenan and Norm
DeWalt**

VETERAN'S COALITION FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The time has come for Veterans, with-in the "Great State of Georgia", to have a strong and ever present legislative voice at the Capital to advocate for those issues of concern that effect their lives and the lives of their families. The "Veteran's Coalition Foundaton" intends to be that voice for all veterans with-in the State of Georgia.

Veteran's, and their dependants, have seen year after year, time and time again, legislation meant to enhance the quality of their lives, and the lives of their families, die in committee, never seeing an "Up or Down" vote on the floor of the House or the Senate. Institutions such as "The Georgia State Veterans Service Centers" are threatened with defunding and closure.

In part we believe this happens due to a lack of reporting on the outcome of the legislative activities surrounding veteran's legislation. Not being hampered by the restriction of a "Congressional Charter" the "Veteran's Coalition Foundation" intends to be that voice for all Georgia veterans. By bringing all Georgia Veterans Service Organizations into participation in the "Coalition" we give voice to all the organizations, both with large and small member numbers". Our "Capital" will be the collective voting strength of Georgia veterans and their families. This number currently stands at 1.8 million in the State of Georgia.

By having a system of reporting where our elected officials stand on their support, or lack thereof, for veteran's legislation, we can keep our veterans and families apprised of how their legislators have voted when it comes to veteran's issues.

Activities of the Coalition:

- 1: Be a constant and recognized presents at the Georgia State Capital and in Washington.
- 2: Meet, on a regular schedule, with the Governor, our state legislative representatives and our Congressional Representatives to advocate for needed veterans legislation and policies.

To publish, on a regular schedule, a "Report Card" advising our veteran's community how their legislators voted on veteran's issues. We will also report on pending legislation and needed policy additions and changes that affect the quality of life of our veteran's community. We will also report on the records of those legislators that are members of committees responsible for review of veteran's legislation in the various committees. Support for , PTSD, homeless veteran's and educational programs for veteran's and future potential veterans.

Individually Veteran Service Organizations, in general, lack a sufficient presents to impact the debate on veteran issues, but collectively, we would have a potent force to advocate for our veteran's community.

OUR PROGRAMS

- **BACKPACKS FOR HOMELESS**
 - **FOOD BANK SUPPORT**
- **SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS**
 - **EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH VET CENTERS**
- **PARNERSHIP WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT**
 - **VA BENEFITS COUNSELING**
- **HOMELESS SHELTERS FOR VETERANS**
- **VETERAN'S COURTS IN EVERY COUNTY**
- **ADVOCATES FOR VETERAN'S ISSUES AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS**

SUPPORT VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE

PARTNERSHIP WITH BUSINESS THAT ADVOCATE FOR VETERANS

OUR PARTNERS

Humana
Chris Mercer
(770) 685-9218
cmercerc@humana.com

LegalShield
Jeff Keeble
(770) 480-2380
www.veteranslegalshield.com

Waters Edge Roofing
Blake Hauger
(678) 887-8800
www.watersedgeroofing.com

Milend Mortgage
Rett Mercer
(617) 320-6491
www.milendmortgage.com

Der Biergarten Restaurant
(404) 521-2728
www.derbiergarten.com

Neptune Society
Richard Rouse
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Diamond Amusements
Terri Spivey
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Team Red, White and Blue
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www.aboutteamrwb.org

Tom's Amusements
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www.tomsamusements.com

Cobb Association of Realtors
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Wellness Diagnostics
Ashley Miller
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