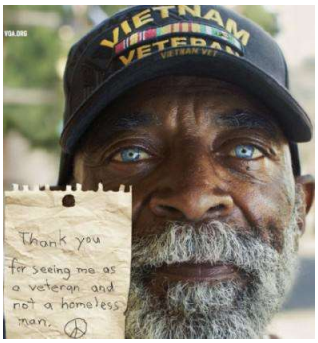
Patriots of Valor

"For You have armed me with strength for the battle…"
Psalm 18:39

An Outreach of The Prisoner's Web PO Box 6 • Middlesex, NJ 08846

Operation Boots To Stockings



A Christmas Outreach to Homeless Veterans

By the time you are reading this, we will have just completed our **2025** campaign, delivering stockings / holiday bags to our homeless Veterans and their families.

Our totals for the program this year: 1,570

Due to supply chain issues, costs and diminishing quality, we have migrated to a new holiday drawstring bag. These are nice, sturdy, reusable bags that contain all the same popular items as our stockings. While we will be using these for the adults in the future, the children will always get a stocking from us – with our precious stuffed animal peeking out at them.

In addition to the above totals, we sent **200** stockings to children in **Ukraine** who have been severely impacted by the war. One hundred went to Mark who lives with his family in the Kharkiv region (his church is 12 miles from the Russian front). And one hundred went to Irena (her husband has been fighting on the front lines since the war started). Her church will host an event for the children who have been made refugees due to the war.

Our newest ***Patriot Angel***

Patriot Angels are people who go out of their way to assist us in carrying out our mission. This is Ryan who supplies us with some of the critical backpacks and bags we use throughout the year. When we wanted to have an ongoing outreach during the year for our homeless Veterans, Ryan came up with our backpack – which is extremely popular.

When we wanted to find something a bit smaller than a backpack, Ryan came up with our Patriot Bag. And, as mentioned, when we needed a replacement for our stockings, Ryan designed our holiday bag (pictured on the front page.)

But most important, the supplier we and Ryan used did not have our bags anymore. This can be due to the tariff issues, cost issues or any other factors impacting supply chain. Ryan went out of his way to immediately find us a new competitive supplier of bags that would keep us in business – at our busiest time of year.

I was honored to present Ryan with one of our challenge coins – he is truly a Patriot Angel.

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Holding the Line

There are some messages that get buried in the sands of history or only get heard by a select few people. One of those messages was delivered by **General James Mattis** to the troops. It was in 2017 as General Mattis – serving as Secretary of Defense - was traveling outside the U.S.A. He met up with some troops deployed in an undisclosed location (believed to have been Jordan).

"*You're a great example for our country right now that's got some problems – you know it and I know it. In times like this, you just hold the line, my fine young soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines. You just hold the line until our country gets back to understanding and respecting each other and showing it – being friendly to one another. The only way this great big experiment you and I call America is gonna survive is if we've got tough hombres like you.*"

That's a great message not just for Military personnel – but for all of us. In times of global upheaval and unrest in our own land – we hold the line. Sometimes it is the best you can do.
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