



# PATRIOT PARK FOUNDATION

HONORING THOSE WHO FOUGHT THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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Dear Supporter of our Armed Forces

I hope this message finds you well and fills you with a deep sense of appreciation for the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform. Today, I am reaching out to you on behalf of Patriot Park, a remarkable place where honor, remembrance, and inspiration come together in a profound way.

Over the past two years, Patriot Park has transformed into a place of extraordinary significance. It has become a sanctuary for all who wish to pay tribute to the **7,054 fallen heroes** of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and the millions of veterans who have valiantly served our nation over the last 22 years. These individuals, along with their families, have made immeasurable sacrifices to protect us from the threats of terrorism. We owe them a debt of gratitude that words alone cannot fully convey.



The heart of Patriot Park lies in the Field of Heroes Flag Display—a powerful symbol of the price of freedom and the ultimate sacrifices made on our behalf. Recently, a grandmother traveled all the way from Ohio with her granddaughters to visit Patriot Park. As tears welled in her eyes, she explained that she wanted her granddaughters to understand that "freedom isn't free." This heartfelt moment captures the essence of what Patriot Park represents.

In the past year, we've achieved remarkable progress, including:

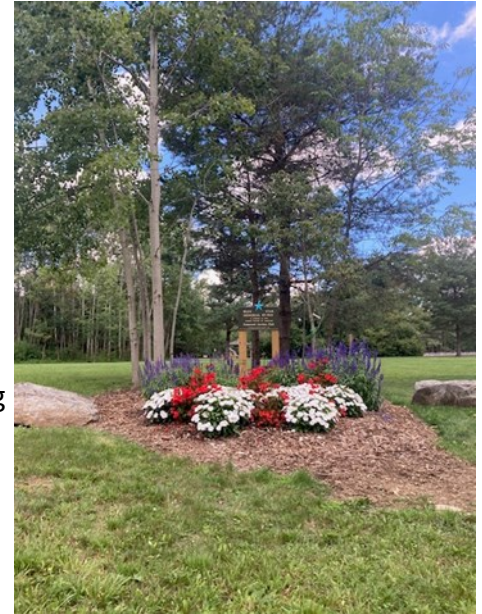
- A **tranquil area** with kneelers and chairs beneath shaded trees for moments of reflection.
- A desert camo **Humvee display** near the entrance, catching the eye of travelers on Route 30.
- Installation of a **Blue Star Highway** marker by the Somerset Garden Club, surrounded by a beautiful flower garden.
- Addition of new and inspiring **story boards**.
- Dedicated bus and motorcycle **parking**.
- Plans to demolish the old, unused motel building and replace it with a mobile **storage** building.
- Clearance of the **Timeline Trail**, with exhibits in the planning phase for a 2024 opening.

Clair Gill, Chairman of the Board & Treasurer, Major General, U.S. Army - Retired; Randall Musser PE PLS, President; Robert E. Sembower, Vice President, Brigadier General, U.S. Army—Retired; Cathy Incardona, Secretary, Esq. – Retired; Kathy Rodriguez, Social Media Director; Robert Munhall, Colonel, U.S. Army - Retired; Travis Pheanis, SFC U.S. Army – Retired, Executive Director, National Ranger Association; J. Pat Terlingo, School Superintendent, Somerset County Commissioner - Retired; Kathy Walker, Gold Star Mother; G. Henry Cook, Chairman Emeritus, Somerset Trust Company; Duane Hart, Brigadier General, U.S.A.F. – Retired; David Berkey, President, Berkey Excavating Company, Inc.; William Szych, LT COL, U.S.A.F. – Retired



However, what truly sets Patriot Park apart are the heartfelt reactions of our visitors. One Iraq War veteran wrote in our visitors' log, "We want to live for those who we could not bring home with us." Another, a wounded combat veteran, shared, "As a wounded combat veteran, this warms my heart." These testimonials emphasize that we are on the right path—to remember, to honor, and to inspire.

Our recent fundraising dinner featuring American hero and 4-time Pittsburgh Steeler Super Bowl Champion, Rocky Bleier, was an unforgettable night. But beyond the celebration, we were there to remember those who sacrificed so much in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and to raise vital funds to support Patriot Park's mission. This "night to remember" served as the official kickoff for this year's fundraising efforts, which we know will become easier as more people discover Patriot Park.



As we approach the end of 2023, our needs at Patriot Park are significant. Major capital improvements, such as paving the entrance road, enhancing walkways with pavers, and creating the Timeline Trail, require over **\$100,000**. We are also in search of a fundraising advisor to expand our reach, and engineering and design services are needed as we plan for a visitor center. While our all-volunteer Board of Directors does its utmost, we recognize the need for professional support.

Our goal for 2024 is to raise **\$200,000**, a sum that may sound substantial but pales in comparison to the sacrifices made by our military and their families. We owe them so much more, and we are committed to delivering on that debt.



In a remarkable show of support, an anonymous donor has pledged a **\$25,000** matching donation, doubling the impact of every dollar donated to Patriot Park Foundation from now until the year's end. We have already exceed that goal and another donor has pledged another **\$5,000** matching donation. Your generosity will have a profound effect on our mission, ensuring that we can continue to grow and honor our heroes in even more meaningful ways.

Please consider making a generous contribution to help us reach our 2023 goal and continue our vital work. Your support is a beacon of hope for those who have served, and it ensures that the legacy of Patriot Park endures.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

With utmost gratitude,

*The Patriot Park Board of Directors*

Patriot Park Foundation is registered with the I.R.S. as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. EIN 85-3170521. The official registration and financial information of Patriot Park Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.