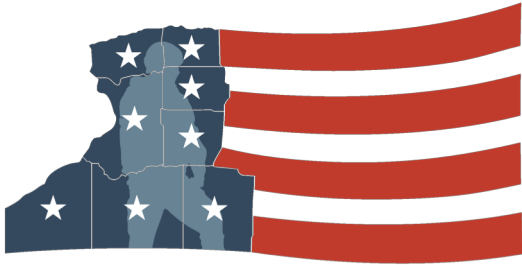




Erie & Niagara County

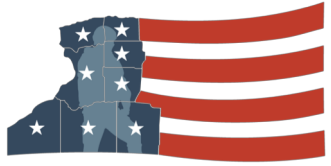


Veterans One-stop Center

WE. EMPOWER. VETERANS.

In Erie and Niagara County, the Veterans One-stop Center of WNY serves as the administrator of a collaborative model for a successful PFC Joseph P. Dwyer peer-to-peer support program which provides a mix of:

- Non-clinical and discreet interactions
- Free Veteran and family-centric programs, events, and activities held year-round
- Collaboration of existing agencies (Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Legal, Buffalo Vet Center, VSAs, etc.)
- Programs and activities aimed at engaging Veterans and Western New York military families
- Peripheral supportive services the support a holistic approach to healing and helping our nation's heroes



Veterans One-stop Services:

- Case Management
- Education Resources
- Referrals to Accredited Benefits Counselors
- Emergency Services
- Veteran-to-Veteran Support
- Employment Resources
- Women and Family Services
- Housing Services
- Financial Counseling and Coaching
- Legal Services

The Veterans One-stop Center, in partnership with We Are Dwyer, offers a variety of programs in order to connect, reintegrate, immerse, and welcome our Veterans, service members, and their families.



Veterans
Treatment
Court

PFC Joseph P. Dwyer, U.S. Army



PFC Joseph P. Dwyer
1977-2008

PFC Joseph Dwyer enlisted in the Army within days of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. An Army Medic, PFC Dwyer and his unit were deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During a combat mission to Baghdad, a photographer for the Military Times newspaper captured this image of PFC Dwyer cradling a wounded Iraqi boy and carrying him to safety after the young boy had been shot in the leg.

The photo represented everything about why PFC Dwyer wanted to serve his country and acted as a perfect and iconic symbol of the American service member's dedication to his duty.

PFC Dwyer returned home after receiving an Honorable Discharge but was never the same. His mother is quoted as saying "He just wasn't Joseph. Joseph never came home."

Unfortunately, due to complications from PTSD and his battles with substance abuse, we lost PFC Dwyer on June 28, 2008 at the age of 31. He is survived by his wife Matina, and his daughter Meagan.

Veterans are invited to participate in over 300 free events that are held throughout the year such as yoga, museum tours with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, equine therapy, history walks, music and art creative expression groups, hiking days, fishing trips and much more.

Our mission at these events is to welcome every Veteran and reduce isolation through veteran-to-veteran support, interaction, and camaraderie.





OPERATION FAMILY CAREGIVER

A program of The Rosalynn Carter
Institute for Caregiving

Returning home from war is hard. The transition back home is jarring, and those with injuries – whether psychological or physical – lean heavily on loved ones for help. Young spouses and aging parents are taking care of America's wounded warriors – in many cases, at the expense of their own health and well-being. Despite the great burden caregiving can be, many family members and friends will not ask for help.



OPERATION FAMILY CAREGIVER

Operation Family Caregiver is a free program for anyone caring for a family member or friend with an injury due to military service after 9/11. It includes both visible and invisible injuries, such as post-traumatic stress, major depression, or a traumatic brain injury.

Our Caregiver coach, who is on-site, is the only Caregiver coach in the Northeast, offering guidance to caregivers in states such as New York, Florida, Massachusetts, and more. Through visits, phone calls, and other support, caregivers develop new problem-solving techniques they can use to improve their well-being.





OPERATION COM
CHILDREN OF THE MILITARY PROGRAM

Children of the military have their own heroic journey.

The Veterans One-stop Center, in partnership with the Mental Health Advocates of WNY, offers **Operation COM (Children of the Military)** program which offers support to military families and assists with adjustment to deployment and reunification.



Operation COM connects military families to one another in a safe space with creative arts, fun activities, and family-centered events, assisting with adjustment to deployment and reunification.



Military children are taught positive coping skills to deal with the stresses of deployment, how to express their feelings, and strengthen their self-confidence.

Veterans Treatment Court

Dwyer personnel work closely with Judge Sheldon, Judge Russell, and the Veteran Peer Mentors in order to provide service and support to Veterans that are currently enrolled in Veterans Treatment Court.



Equine Therapy

Through a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Equi-Star, Inc., our Veterans are invited to participate in Equine Therapy on a bi-weekly basis during the warmer months of the year (typically March through December).



During these sessions, Veterans groom the horses, muck the stalls, guide the horses to and from the arenas, and also help with other volunteer opportunities around the ranch.

Dwyer in 2019:

- WoVeN (Women Veterans Network)
- Annual Fishing Day
- Dwyer Dinner, Honoring Combat Veterans of All Eras
- Family Bowling Day
- Family Yoga Nights
- Kelkenberg Farm Tours
- Maid of the Mist Tours
- Lockport Locks Family Boat Ride
- OpCOM Picnic and Backpack Giveaway
- Partnering with CEPA, for Odyssey (Photography) Workshops, offered to Combat Veterans and Caregivers.
- Much more...