



# *Keeping The Promise*

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 2024



*“We will wait for them and pray for them until they all  
get home... and when they do and if they are in need,  
NEOPAT will help them the best we can.”*

# MEET THE NEOPAT TEAM

## BOARD MEMBERS

Shane Bigelow  
Matt Buzzelli  
Bill Chorba  
Jennifer Davis  
Perry Demming  
Michael Hudec  
Mike Hudson  
Nathan Lambert  
Cameron Miele  
Kevin Smalley  
Matt Soful  
Jeff Staats  
Mike Swallow  
Karl Waller  
Michael Wright

## ADVISORY & EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Tim Burke  
Scott Burns  
Kathy Coleman  
Dominic Offredo  
Matt Previts  
Al Schmitt

## NEOPAT STAFF

Brian Anglin  
Rick DeChant  
Greg Renkas



On behalf of NEOPAT, I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support provided to our organization. The generosity and commitment to our cause have made a significant impact on the lives of veterans and military families in Northeast Ohio.

As the Chairman of NEOPAT, I am continually inspired by the resilience and bravery displayed by our veterans and their families. Their sacrifices and dedication to our country deserve our utmost respect and support. It is our mission at NEOPAT to ensure that they receive the assistance and resources they need to thrive after their service to our nation.

Whether it's through financial contributions, volunteering, or spreading awareness about our cause, it has helped provide the consistency and stability that veterans in Northeast Ohio need. From providing access to essential services such as emergency assistance and mental health support, to organizing community events and building our support network, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we look to the future, we are committed to expanding our reach and enhancing our services to better meet the evolving needs of our veterans and military families. With your continued support, we are confident that we can make an even greater impact and continue to provide vital assistance to those who have served our country with honor and courage.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support, generosity and compassion to make all the difference in the lives of the veterans and military families we serve.

With deepest gratitude,

*Michael J. Swallow*

Mike Swallow  
Chairman of the Board

# REMEMBERING OUR NATION'S HEROES

**U. S. Army Sergeant Cory M. Endlich**

June 2, 1984 – June 9, 2007



Polite. Disciplined. Determined. Reliable. Much Respected. These are just a few of the words used to describe Sgt. Cory M. Endlich, who always thought of others above himself. Cory knew he wanted to be a soldier as far back as middle school, and the events of 9/11 cemented that desire.

Born June 2, 1984 in Canton to parents, Randy and Cathi Endlich, and a 2003 graduate of Massillon's Washington High School, Cory left a lasting mark not only as a student, but as a dedicated and compassionate individual. Engaged in various activities, he ran cross-country and played the tuba in the Tiger Swing Band. His early exposure to responsibility and hard work began starting in the 5th grade when he started delivering the Independent newspaper alongside his younger brother, Kevin, laying the foundation for the strong work ethic that would define his future.

From a family with a proud military tradition, Cory's roots in service ran deep and set the stage for a legacy of commitment to country. His grandfather and uncles were veterans of World War II, and his father spent 24 years of dedicated service in the United States Army. Cory and his brother Kevin, joined the Army in 2003 to embark on their military journey together.

Cory's aspirations were clear from the start – Army, Airborne, Infantry. His dream was not just a career choice; it was a calling to be on the front lines, the first to defend his country. Basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, marked the beginning of his intensive training. Upon being assigned to the esteemed 505th PIR of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Cory spent two years there before being reassigned to Fort Lewis and subsequently deployed to Iraq on April 9, 2007 as an infantryman; finally following in his family's footsteps serving his country.

Cory's exceptional qualities were evident as his selflessness and eagerness to aid others became his defining traits. In the fast-paced environment of Iraq, Cory garnered high praise from his peers for his preparedness—being hailed as someone who always had spares, whether it was buttons, essential gear, or ammunition, ensuring his comrades' needs were met without fail.

Driven by his own triumphs over adversity, Cory was fueled by a deep desire to prevent others from feeling unsupported. Whether it meant offering extra training sessions or ensuring his fellow soldiers had necessary backups, Cory consistently prioritized the well-being of his comrades, fostering a culture of support and reliability within the unit.

Cory died on June 9, 2007 at 23 years of age in Taji, Iraq, from wounds sustained from enemy small-arms fire. Cory's legacy is one of dedication, compassion, and preparedness. His story serves as a testament to the brotherhood that the military provides and a lasting family legacy of service. His mother, Cathi, said it best: "I want people to know that Cory was a good-hearted person. He thought of others above himself. He would do anything if somebody needed something. He would help them any way he could. Anybody that knew him would agree with that."

*[Join us in honoring and remembering Cory and learn more about his story through this powerful video.](#)*

For more information about all Charles Kirby Wilcox honorees, visit [neopat.org/about/charles-kirby-wilcox-honorees](http://neopat.org/about/charles-kirby-wilcox-honorees)



# MAKING AN IMPACT

Since The Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism (NEOPAT) was founded in 2011, numerous veterans and military families have been impacted by our mission resulting in nearly \$4.5 million in direct impact. Currently, our region contains over 300,000 veterans and over 8,000 individuals in active military units. Most importantly, among these are the friends and families of the 113 young men and women from Northeast Ohio who have died serving our country since 9/11. Our mission is to promote patriotism, support military families and remember those that have gone before us.

## OUR MISSION CONTINUES

Together, NEOPAT, and generous supporters of our mission, can truly make a stand to support our country's most valued patriots who continue to take a stand for us.

In 2023, through 116 emergency assistance and programmatic initiatives, NEOPAT impacted over 2,363 veterans/military and 3,948 non-military family members. This number is more than twice the direct impact from last year and is an example of our growing partnerships and efforts to increase our region's military support network. Our direct charitable distribution totaled \$253,324, and increased to more than \$330,000 in total impact with additional in-kind funding projects. Our multiyear programmatic support will continue thanks to our generous supporters.

## OUR IMPACT

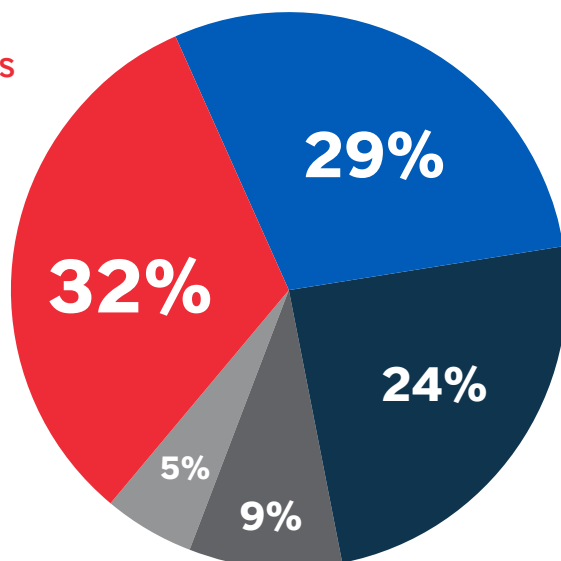
Mental Wellness

Patriotism

Emergency Assistance

Community Engagement

Remembrance



# KEEPING THE PROMISE

NEOPAT's commitment to *Keeping the Promise* to support and serve military families in our 20-county service area in their time of need remains constant. NEOPAT's core programming is focused on key areas and we invite you to learn more about our work over the last year.

## EMERGENCY SUPPORT & MENTAL WELLNESS

Helping on the home front with emergency support such as medical, food and housing needs to military and veteran families, assisting with utility payments and basic needs, access to mental health programming, and championing an annual adopt-a-military family program. [Examples of how NEOPAT puts this into action are:](#)

- Helping 413 veterans and military who needed assistance for food and retail purchases to accommodate basic household needs.
- 49 instances where NEOPAT was able to keep veterans and military families in stable housing, in some cases providing a safety net for months.
- Provided transportation to 134 veterans; 89 rides were to veteran affairs services, 37 to food banks/pantries, and the remainder to emergency shelters, inoculation appointments, and other health needs.

## RALLY AGAINST SUICIDE

NEOPAT proudly joined forces for the "Rally Against Suicide" event, supported by the Cleveland Cavaliers and The Veterans Assurance Network. This powerful gathering aimed to raise awareness about the critical issue of veteran suicide. It showcased our unwavering commitment to supporting the mental health and well-being of our veterans, who've given so much to our nation.

## VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

NEOPAT sponsored The Veterans Resource Fair, hosted by the Cleveland Veterans Collaborative at the Frederick Douglass Resources and Recreation Center. It was a one-day summit of resources, employers and workshops designed specifically for local veterans. The event brought together the community, local leaders, and information to veterans to ensure comradery and success.



*"NEOPAT has been a great asset to us providing direct financial assistance to veterans, they do a lot of extensive work throughout the veteran community. It's definitely a privilege to work with them and serve veterans at the same time, which for me, being an army veteran definitely has a very personal appeal."*

*– Alex Cohen, Help2Veterans Coordinator at United Way of Greater Cleveland*

NEOPAT is proud to bridge connections with regional veteran organizations to build relationships and our impact.



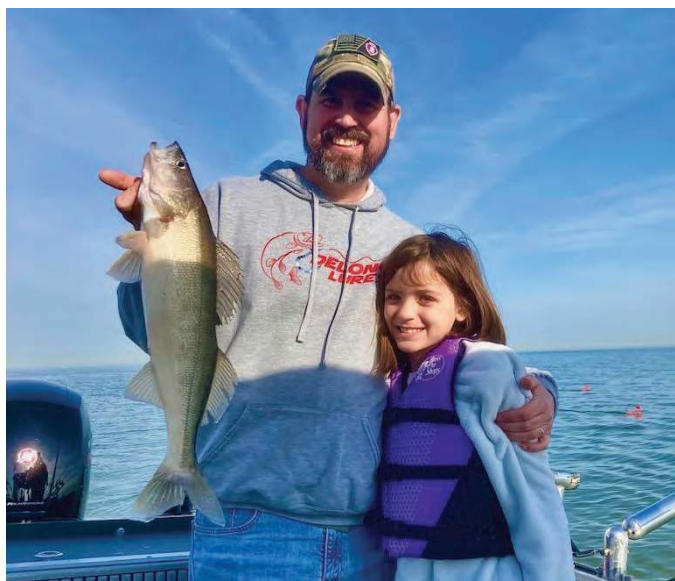
NEOPAT is focusing on being mission ready to work with veterans and their families individually as their needs arise with a focus on Post Traumatic Growth (PTG). With additional PTG resources and support, veterans can find new meaning and creativity in adversity, resilience and strength so they have a new sense of living a purposeful life.

### MODERN WARRIOR LIVE

NEOPAT and Modern Warrior Live brought the community together sharing a personal and emotional journey of the challenges of military service and the experience veterans face when they return back home, creating a catalyst for meaningful conversation about mental health. Created by Dominick Farinacci and Jaymes Poling in 2017, this production has since been presented more than 125 times across the country. Modern Warrior LIVE has reached more than 10,000 veterans and 30,000 civilians, and has connected more than 4,000 veterans to veteran and mental health service providers.

### FOREVER AMBER ACRES FAMILY EVENT

Bringing the healing power of horse equine therapy at Forever Amber Acres to veterans and their families is a heartwarming testament to the positive impact our collaboration is making. Through these equine therapy sessions, veterans and their families find a unique way to learn about themselves and others by participating in activities with the horses that explore feelings, thoughts and behaviors.



Connecting generations of veterans for an unforgettable fishing adventure on Lake Erie, thanks to NEOPAT partner, Cast It Forward.



Perry Demming Outdoor Freedom Project participants honed their skills under the guidance of experienced archers, pushing their limits and striving for personal excellence.

## PATRIOTISM & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NEOPAT is committed to promoting patriotism through community projects dedicated to veterans such as Operation Flags of Freedom, engaging youth through salute to service programs, special events and volunteer opportunities.

- Numerous organizations, including Unbroken Athletics, Northcoast 41 CrossFit, IDEAL Impact, The Cleveland German Carfest, and John Carroll Veterans Group, have significantly supported NEOPAT through independent fundraisers. Their efforts have made a huge impact on our veteran community.
- The Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Kent State University selected NEOPAT as their philanthropic partner and raised over \$21,000 and collected over 1,600 articles of clothing for our mission.
- NEOPAT continues to expand upon events such as the City of Cleveland's Veteran Resource Fair, Lorain County Community College's Veterans in STEM Summit, the SAM Center's Veterans and Dependents Resource Fair and numerous others.

### PARTNERING WITH WQMX 94.9 - TUNING IN TO SUPPORT LOCAL HEROES

Our continued year-round collaboration with 94.9 WQMX mobilized community members, sponsors, and dedicated partners to support local veterans and military families in Northeast Ohio. By hosting charity concerts, dining fundraisers, golf tournaments, and the annual Tree of Lights event, over \$60,000 was raised to further our mission.

### THE THIRD ESTIMATE - PROVIDING THE ULTIMATE TRANSFORMATION

NEOPAT partnered with The Third Estimate, a Northeast Ohio leader in exterior home remodeling, to provide a complete exterior home makeover to a local veteran couple in need. The Third Estimate, along with Owens Corning, Vytex Windows, ABC Supply, and Tri-County Electric, gifted local veterans, Dillon and Keslie, with a new roof, windows, siding, entry door, and flagpole, allowing the couple to focus less on repairs and more on their future.

*"We at NEOPAT want to thank The Third Estimate for this opportunity to assist a local veteran homeowner with an exterior home upgrade. This project aligns perfectly with our mission to 'Keep the Promise' to support our local veterans, active-duty military, and their families. It also strengthens our commitment to ensure they are thanked for their service."*

- Rick DeChant, Senior Advisor Emeritus of NEOPAT



Veterans, Dillon and Keslie, received a life-changing exterior home makeover courtesy of the Third Estimate and their supplier partners.



NEOPAT was honored to partner with the Cleveland Browns with over 200 local service members and Gold Star families in attendance at their special Military Appreciation Day during training camp.



The North Royalton Muckdogs baseball team volunteered their time and talents to set up flags and learned about the importance of the flag and Memorial Day.

## REMEMBRANCE

Honoring patriots who have given the ultimate sacrifice through remembrance initiatives which include recognizing an annual Charles Kirby Wilcox Honoree, Gold Star Family recognition, and memorial monuments for our fallen.

- Sponsored the 1st Annual Cleveland Survivor Riverboat Ride for Gold Star family members.
- Provided funeral assistance to bringing home a WWII veteran to Northeast Ohio as part of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency efforts.
- Operations Flags of Freedom made sure that American flags were proudly displayed at the funerals of numerous WWII, Vietnam, and Afghanistan veterans.

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Over 300 Massillon area veterans, military families, and residents gathered at Massillon's Calvary Cemetery to participate in the annual Wreaths Across America event. Participants were there to place wreaths on veteran graves as a symbol of respect and remembrance during the holidays. NEOPAT was honored to be a part of this annual event.

## MEMORIAL DAY AT EDGEWATER

The Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism continues to keep it's promise to honor and remember our fallen heroes each Memorial Day with a display of 150 American flags along the pathways of Cleveland Metroparks Edgewater Park in Cleveland.



Salute to Service games were held at regional high schools, colleges, and universities including Rocky River, Hudson, North Royalton, Kent State University, and John Carroll University.



NEOPAT was again proud to be a co-sponsor of the Massillon Wreaths Across America event.

# 2023 NEOPAT SIGNATURE EVENTS

## NEOPAT GALA

The annual NEOPAT Gala, held in March of 2023, was a celebration of our ongoing commitment to supporting veterans and military families in our community. This successful annual event brought together more than 380 friends, supporters, and partners to reflect on our collective impact and set the stage for our future.

U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak was honored as our 2023 Charles Kirby Wilcox Honoree, and guests heard remarkable speeches from U.S. Navy Master Chief Michael J. Roberts, and Mary White, Program Coordinator of Summit County Veteran Family Services of Family Community Services.

NEOPAT is committed to providing critical support to those who have served our country, and the annual gala fundraiser was a testament to the organization's dedication to this mission.



## NEOPAT GOLF OUTING

The 12th annual NEOPAT Golf Outing was held at the picturesque Sand Ridge Golf Club in September 2023. This sold-out outing featured players and sponsors coming together to make a positive impact, participate in friendly competition, and share a day of camaraderie while raising essential funding for our mission-centric programs.

The event included the presentation of the colors by the USMC Color Guard, Marine Corps Recruiting Station Cleveland, followed by the National Anthem, before participants played 18 holes, various contests, enjoyed lunch stations on the course and capped the day off with a post-game reception where awards and raffle winners were announced.

This day of unity, support, and a deep appreciation for our veterans and military families is one of the many ways NEOPAT continues its mission of honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our nation.



**For a full list of our 2024 events, visit  
[www.neopat.org/events](http://www.neopat.org/events)**

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

**\$100,000+**

The logo for Fleet Response features the word "Fleet" in a black serif font and "response" in a red italicized serif font. A red swoosh underline is positioned behind the word "Fleet".

**\$25,000- \$99,999**



**\$10,000- \$24,999**



## Kappa Sigma Epsilon Rho Chapter



**Taylor & Angel  
Marshall**



### Ohio Flags of Honor

## Mike & Jaime Swallow Family

**\$5,000- \$9,999**

Brandon & Juliana Carrus | CBIZ, Inc. | Classic Concrete Coatings | Brian & Maria Dean | Hudec Dental  
Michael & Karin Hudson | Debbie & Steve Joseph | Kaulig Giving | Fred & Sally Marquinez | Ohio Real Title  
RGP | Kristen & Michael Salata | Sibling Revelry Brewing | Weinberg Capital Group  
Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA | The Bob Woodruff Foundation | Wright Equity Partners / The Wright Family

Special thanks to all of our donors who wish to remain anonymous.

*\*Recognition is in acknowledgment of cumulative giving in the 2023 calendar year.*

# HELP US

## *Keep the Promise*

NEOPAT receives requests daily from veterans needing assistance making ends meet, including maintaining stable access to food, basic necessities, and much-needed emotional support. These veterans and their families have sacrificed so much for our country, and we owe it to them to come together as a community to provide the help they need.

But we cannot do this work alone. It is through the generosity of supporters like you that we are able to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those who have served. Please consider joining us and donating to our mission to *Keep the Promise*.

## MAKE A DONATION

Scan the **QR code** with your smartphone camera.



To learn more, visit  
**[neopat.org/keepthepromise](https://neopat.org/keepthepromise)**



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[www.neopat.org](https://www.neopat.org)

