

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 2025









"We'll wait for them and pray for them until they all get home... and if they are in need, NEOPAT will help them the best it can."

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On behalf of the NEOPAT Board and staff, thank you for your unwavering support. Your generosity continues to transform the lives of veterans and military families across Northeast Ohio, providing critical assistance and meaningful opportunities for those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

From emergency assistance and mental wellness programs to remembrance initiatives and community engagement, NEOPAT remains steadfast in its mission. With over 300,000 veterans and military family members in Northeast Ohio, plus 8,000 reservists, the need for support is great, and our commitment to serving them is even greater.

Our 13th year was one of growth and renewed dedication. We expanded our team to strengthen fundraising efforts, ensuring we can serve more military families. We also merged with the Perry Thomas Demming Outdoor Freedom Project, offering veterans access to archery, fishing, and marksmanship —experiences often out of reach due to service-related injuries. Additionally, we deepened our support for Veteran Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) to help veterans, military, and spouses transition into the workforce.

We are energized by the growing community of patriotic supporters rallying behind this mission. More individuals, businesses, and organizations are stepping up, eager to make a difference in the lives of those who have served. Their dedication strengthens our impact, builds lasting connections, and ensures that military families know they are never alone.

Your generosity—through donations, volunteerism, or advocacy—fuels our impact. As we enter our 14th year, we look forward to expanding our reach and ensuring every veteran and military family has access to the resources they deserve. Together, we will honor their service and uphold our promise to support them.

With gratitude,

Michael J. Swallow

Michael J. Swallow Founder and Chairman of the Board

REMEMBERING OUR NATION'S HEROES

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Kyle Robert McKee

Feb. 14, 1985 - Nov. 12, 2020

Kyle Robert McKee was born on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1985, in Painesville, Ohio, to Steve and Roberta McKee. Growing up in Leroy Township, Kyle was deeply influenced by his family's strong military legacy. From a young age, he was drawn to the military, often dressing in camouflage for Halloween, playing with toy military vehicles and expressing a clear desire to serve in the Army.



Kyle attended Riverside High School in Painesville, where he was an active student, participating in sports such as football, baseball, and wrestling. However, his true passion lay in history, particularly the armaments used in World War II. He was known for his intelligence and ability to retain vast amounts of information, often surpassing his textbooks and teachers' knowledge base.

Kyle enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17, following in the footsteps of his family members who had served before him. He entered early entry Basic Training and graduated as Soldier Leader of the Cycle, a testament to his dedication and leadership skills from the beginning.

Throughout his military career, Kyle served in various roles, including as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief and flight engineer. He attended specialized training programs such as Air Assault and SERE School, demonstrating his commitment to honing his skills. Kyle was stationed in several locations, including Clarksville, Tennessee; Alaska; Washington state; and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He also attended Arabic school in California, further expanding his capabilities.

Kyle's deployments took him to Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq, where he distinguished himself as a capable and respected soldier. His military honors include the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Senior Aircrew Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

Kyle was known for his adaptability and ability to fit into any situation, earning him the respect of his peers and superiors alike. He was a natural leader and a team player, always ensuring that his fellow soldiers were held to the same high standards he set for himself.

In his personal life, Kyle was a devoted husband to Lauren (Nikki Montgomery) McKee and father to two sons, Jackson and Canaan. Tragically, he passed away on November 12, 2020, in a helicopter crash during a peacekeeping mission in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, just before the birth of his daughter, Isla.

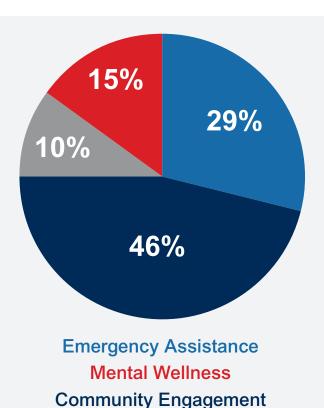
Kyle's legacy extends beyond his military service. He is remembered for his sense of humor, kindness, and compassion. Despite his tough exterior, he was a tender-hearted person who preferred to live and let live, often going out of his way to help people and animals in distress. His impact on those who knew him was profound, and his memory continues to inspire and honor the values of service, family, and integrity that he embodied throughout his life.

Join us in honoring and remembering Kyle 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

MAKING AN IMPACT

In 2024, NEOPAT impacted over 4,304 individuals across our military and veteran community. Our direct community impact totaled \$253,212, with more scheduled through multiyear programs. Every dollar made a difference, and we remain committed to serving those who serve us.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Providing vital support on the home front, NEOPAT delivers emergency assistance to military and veteran families facing hardships.

Remembrance

ADOPT-A-MILITARY FAMILY

Thanks to over 50 sponsors, NEOPAT provided joy and support to 70 military families and 176 children, reminding them they are valued.

RESOURCE FAIRS

NEOPAT supports resource fairs to connect veterans and military families with benefits, essential employment, education, and wellness opportunities.



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.

MENTAL WELLNESS

Therapy comes in many forms—through outdoor recreation, the arts, music, and even interactions with animals. NEOPAT is dedicated to enhancing the mental well-being of veterans by supporting programs that foster these connections, build resilience, and promote healing.

PERRY DEMMING OUTDOOR FREEDOM PROJECT

NEOPAT hosted numerous events for disabled veterans, including archery, fly fishing, clay shooting, and more. These events offer veterans a chance to enjoy nature, connect, and share stories in a peaceful setting.

RALLY AGAINST SUICIDE

NEOPAT proudly partnered with the Cleveland Cavaliers and Veterans Assurance Network to sponsor the Rally Against Suicide on September 22nd at Cleveland's Willard Free Stamp. Held in tribute to the 22 servicemembers lost to suicide daily, the event raised awareness, fostered support, and advocated for military mental health.



Adaptive fishing poles allow wounded veterans to enjoy fly fishing as part of our outdoor therapy programs.



A cornhole tournament provided adaptive therapy for local disabled veterans as part of Military Appreciation Month.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, NEOPAT hosted 160 events, continuing to build patriotism and strengthen connections within the military community through a wide range of events, scholarship presentations, military family engagement activities, workforce initiatives, volunteer opportunities, and participation in Operation Flags of Freedom.

MEALS READY TO ENJOY

NEOPAT proudly sponsored a special lunch for 160 dedicated service members at the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines in Brook Park, Ohio, as part of our Meals Ready to Enjoy (MRE) initiative. Providing meals served as a small but meaningful token of gratitude for their dedication and sacrifices.

BACK TO SCHOOL

NEOPAT distributed 50 backpacks filled with school supplies to military families through our partnership with Volunteers of America Ohio. Alongside the giveaway, NEOPAT provided lunch for the Coast Guard, creating a meaningful opportunity to support servicemembers and their children as they prepared for the school year.



NEOPAT thanked the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines in Brook Park, Ohio, with MRE's.



Coast Guard members educating our youth on flag folding and etiquette.



Military Family Fun Days allow military families to enjoy local museums and venues.

REMEMBRANCE

NEOPAT remains steadfast in our commitment to honoring the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in service to our country. Through meaningful events, family connections, and ongoing support, we ensure that the legacy of our fallen heroes lives on.

LONE SAILOR STATUE

NEOPAT was proud to support the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation at Cleveland's Voinovich Park for the dedication of the Lone Sailor Plaza, only the eighth of its kind in the country. The Plaza features the iconic Lone Sailor statue along with two Honor and Memorial Walls displaying personalized plaques that recognize the men and women from Northeast Ohio who have served in America's Sea Services.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

NEOPAT was proud to once again partner with Wreaths Across America and Ohio Flags of Honor to place holiday wreaths on the graves of the 2,300 veterans buried in Massillon's Calvary Cemetery. For nearly 20 years, the second Saturday of December has marked this national tradition, honoring fallen service members at cemeteries across the country.



The Squires Family and their friends gather to perform landscaping clean up and maintenance on the Brad Squires Memorial Plaza in Middleburg Heights.



The service of recently deceased Army veteran and Massillon native Staff Sergeant Joe Manhart was recognized at the Calvary Cemetery Wreaths Across America ceremony.

On hand to receive the honors and recognition was Manhart's 95-year-old surviving wife, Alice.

EVENTS

GALA

NEOPAT's annual gala united over 300 attendees in support of our nation's heroes. The evening honored U.S. Army Sergeant Cory M. Endlich, featured a keynote by Willis Gordon on veterans' challenges, and recognized the United Way of Greater Cleveland as Community Partner of the Year. With inspiring speeches and generous contributions, the event raised \$104,000 to support veterans and military families.



TOPGOLF

A fun-filled evening of friendly competition and community spirit. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed, the event was a great success, raising crucial funds to support veterans in Northeast Ohio. Your generosity helps NEOPAT continue its mission, and we look forward to seeing you at future events!



GOLF OUTING

The Annual Golf Outing at Sand Ridge Golf Club brought together supporters for a day of golf, camaraderie, and fundraising in support of veterans and military families. Participants enjoyed a round of golf on the scenic course, with proceeds benefiting NEOPAT's emergency assistance program.



CLAYS & CLAMS

NEOPAT hosted the Clays & Clams Fundraiser as part of the Perry Demming Outdoor Freedom Project, bringing together veterans, VA staff, and supporters for a day of clay pigeon shooting, a clambake dinner, and a raffle/ auction.



For a full list of our 2025 events, visit www.neopat.org/events

CALL TO ACTION: STAND WITH US FOR THOSE WHO SERVED





At NEOPAT, we are on a mission to support and uplift veterans and military families in Northeast Ohio — but we cannot do it alone. Just as service members rely on their brothers and sisters in arms, we rely on a community of patriots to advance our mission.

We need YOU to be an advocate for our work. Here's how you can help:

- Be Our Voice in the Community Share our mission with fellow patriots, friends, and colleagues to build awareness and support for veterans and military families.
- Open Doors to Corporate Engagement Introduce us to your employer, where we can connect with Veteran & Military Employee Resource Groups (ERG/MRGs) and explore partnership opportunities.
- Help Us Connect with Veterans in Need Many veterans are unaware of the emergency assistance and programs available to them. If you know a veteran facing hardship, direct them to NEOPAT.
- Invest in the Mission Every dollar counts. Whether it's a one-time gift, a corporate sponsorship, a special fundraiser or a recurring donation, your financial support directly benefits those who served.

We stand ready to serve those who stood for us. Will you stand with us?

Join the mission today. Visit <u>NEOPAT.org</u> or contact us to learn more.

HONORING OUR SUPPORTERS:

The Heart of NEOPAT's Mission

We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor who has contributed to NEOPAT's mission of supporting veterans and military families. Your generosity fuels vital programs, emergency assistance, and community initiatives that make a lasting impact.

A special recognition goes to our Patriot Circle donors—leaders in philanthropy whose exceptional gifts provide the foundation for our continued service. Their unwavering commitment ensures that those who have served our country receive the support they deserve.

Thank you for standing with us in our mission. Your dedication and generosity make all the difference.

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\$100,000 & ABOVE

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Master Sergeant Joseph J. Andres Jr.

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Allen Boskovitch

CMDR Robert "Tuck" Brant Corporal Brad Anthony Davis

U.S. Army Sergeant Cory M. Endlich

U.S. Army Specialist Adam S. Hamilton

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Kyle

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DONOR LISTING UPDATES

We strive for accuracy and want to ensure your generosity is recognized correctly. If you would like to request a change to your donor listing, please contact **Greg Renkas** at **grenkas@neopat.org**. *Thank you for your support!*

Alexandra Zywicki

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



