



# STRONGER TOGETHER



*Celebrating 15 Years of Service*

August 2026 | Issue 8

## 15 Years Strong. Together



If you are an online subscriber, click our logo to watch a short video about who we are.



Our founding board: Len sas (Director), Sue Margolious (Secretary), Al Eaton (President), Ken Gould (Treasurer), Ben Margolious (Vice President), and Tom Crowley (Director). Not Pictured: Amber Waffle (Director)

Fifteen years ago, the Southern Tier Veterans Support Group didn't begin with a business plan or a fundraising campaign. It began with a simple question:

"How can we help?"

For founder Al Eaton, that question first arose while working at Lockheed Martin in Owego. After learning from Dr. Allison Miller of the Binghamton Vet Center about the challenges many local veterans were facing—including homelessness—he realized there were gaps in the existing support system. Together with community partners, informal meetings began, ideas were shared, and a vision took shape.

That vision became the Southern Tier Veterans Support Group.

"We structured our mission to be broad enough that we could address needs not being met by other veteran organizations," Al recalls. "Our flexibility has always been one of our greatest strengths."

In August 2011, STVSG officially became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with a small board of dedicated volunteers committed to one goal: ensuring no veteran or military family had to face life's challenges alone.

Board member and co-founder Ben Margolius remembers those early days well.

"One of our biggest challenges was simply getting the word out that STVSG existed," he says. "Even 15 years later, that's still something we're working on."

What surprised Ben most wasn't the work itself—it was the people.

"I was impressed by how well our board worked together. We came from different backgrounds, but everyone shared the same commitment to helping veterans."

Over the years, STVSG has grown from serving just a handful of counties to supporting veterans and their families across 14 counties in New York and Pennsylvania. Along the way, the organization has built partnerships with more than 70 affiliated organizations, expanded its services, and helped thousands of local veterans.

Yet, according to both founders, what makes STVSG unique hasn't changed.

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Rather than fitting veterans into rigid guidelines, STVSG evaluates every situation individually, allowing the organization to respond quickly and fill gaps that other agencies cannot.

"We decided early on that having very few restrictions would allow us to help veterans others couldn't," Al explains. "That flexibility has proven to be one of the defining characteristics of STVSG."

For Ben, the greatest accomplishment isn't measured in years or numbers.

"It's the veterans we've been able to help and the positive reactions we see every day."

Both founders shared stories that continue to remind them why the organization exists.

Al recalls helping a veteran early in STVSG's history with expenses so he could continue his education. Years later, that same veteran had become a VA social worker—helping fellow veterans every day.

"It showed us that sometimes a small amount of help can completely change someone's future."

Ben remembers another veteran who needed transportation to specialized medical appointments in New York City but couldn't afford the bus fare. STVSG stepped in repeatedly, helping with transportation and temporary housing expenses while he underwent treatment. Eventually, his health improved, and he was able to return to work.

"Helping veterans isn't always about solving every problem," Ben says. "Sometimes it's providing just enough support to help someone get back on their feet."

As STVSG celebrates its 15th anniversary, both founders hope the community understands that every success has been made possible by volunteers, partners, and supporters working together.

"We're all volunteers," Ben says. "Because of that, more than 90 cents of every donated dollar goes directly back to veterans."

Al hopes even more veterans will learn that help is available.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help," he says. "You served us. Let us serve you."

When asked what he hopes for the next 15 years, Al doesn't hesitate.

"I'd like to see us continue finding solutions to housing and transportation issues, especially for veterans in rural communities."

Ben shares a similar vision.

"I hope we continue to grow our funding so we can reach even more veterans and expand our services."

Fifteen years later, the mission remains exactly what it was from the beginning: neighbors helping neighbors, veterans helping veterans, and a community standing together to ensure that no veteran stands alone.

As we celebrate this milestone, we thank Al Eaton, Ben Margolius, and every board member, volunteer, affiliate, donor, and supporter who has helped build the Southern Tier Veterans Support Group into what it is today.

Because after 15 years, one thing is certain: we're stronger together.



Our Current Board: Jason Hibbard (Director), Tom Tait (Director), Joe Kane (Secretary), Anthony Pedro (President), Dave Ropright (Director), Ben Margolius (Director), Sue Margolius (Director), Nick Paluszkiwicz (Director), Al Eaton (Director), George Light (Director), Amy Hibbard (Director of Communications)



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CELEBRATING  
**15<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

OF SERVICE ★ SUPPORT ★ COMMUNITY

**VETERANS**  
*Appreciation*  
**PICNIC**

**STVSG**  
SOUTHERN TIER  
VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP

FOOD | CAMARADERIE | ENTERTAINMENT | CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES | BASKET RAFFLES

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 15**  
★ · 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM · ★  
**HILLCREST AMERICAN LEGION POST 1194**  
*Let's celebrate our local veterans and STVSG!*

**RSVP TODAY!** | REGISTER VIA GOOGLE FORM  
OR EMAIL [INFO@STVSG.ORG](mailto:INFO@STVSG.ORG)

*Thank you for your service. ♥ Thank you for being part of our community.*

If the QR Code isn't working please go to:  
<https://forms.gle/ub9vVGx9VE3ivumY8>  
 Online subscribers just click here!

The night of Tuesday August 10, 2026, in honor of our 15th Anniversary, we gathered with past and present board members to celebrate 15 years of service, support, and community. ❤️💙💙

We were especially grateful to have five of our founding members with us tonight—the individuals who helped turn an idea into an organization that has touched the lives of so many veterans and their families over the past 15 years.

What started with a desire to fill the gaps and make sure local veterans had somewhere to turn has grown into something far greater than anyone could have imagined.

Tonight was an opportunity to look back, share memories, celebrate how far we've come, and most importantly, recognize the people who helped make it all possible.

To our founders, past board members, current board members, volunteers, partners, supporters, and everyone who has been part of this journey—thank you.

Because of you, for 15 years, veterans in our community have known they do not have to stand alone.

15 Years Strong. Together. 🇺🇸













# 15th Anniversary Press Conference

Tuesday, August 12, 2026 was a special day for the Southern Tier Veterans Support Group as we celebrated 15 years of serving veterans, service members, and their families. 🇺🇸

We were honored to be joined by so many community leaders and special guests at today's 15th Anniversary Press Conference. Their presence and support are a reminder that the work we do has always been about more than one organization — it's about a community coming together to make sure our veterans know they are never alone. For 15 years, STVSG has worked to connect veterans with resources, fill gaps when help is needed, and build partnerships throughout our community. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has been part of that journey — our founders, board members, volunteers, community partners, supporters, and the veterans who have trusted us along the way.

15 Years Strong. Together. ❤️💙💜

Online Subscribers: Click the photo below to watch the press conference!

















# 15 YEARS OF SERVICE OUR STORY IN PICTURES



★ ——— Together, we honor those who served. ——— ★



# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Thank you to our generous donors for  
15 years of unwavering support.

Your generosity has strengthened our  
mission and honored those who served.



# 15 YEARS OF GENEROSITY



## HONORING OUR DONORS

*Your generosity has strengthened our mission.  
With heartfelt gratitude, thank you.*

Some of our amazing Donors, We appreciate all donations, big and small!



# Community Events

For full details and registration, visit  
STVSG.org or follow us on Facebook.

## Upcoming events.



**AUGUST**

**6**

### **CLEAR PATH CANTEEN**

American Legion Post  
1645 1100-1300 hrs.

**AUGUST**

**7**

### **TAI CHI**

Veterans Resource  
Center 10AM

**AUGUST**

**12**

### **STVSG PRESS CONFERENCE**

15<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Veterans Resource  
Center 10 Am

**AUGUST**

**13**

### **YOGA**

Veterans Resource  
Center 11AM

**AUGUST**

**14**

### **BINGHAMTON VETERAN BREAKFAST CLUB**

Red Oak Restaurant  
9-10:30 AM

**AUGUST**

**15**

### **VETERANS APPRECIATION PICNIC**

Bring the family and  
come celebrate our 15  
year anniversary. See  
flyer for details on how  
to register!

**AUGUST**

**20**

### **JEFFERSON STARSHIP**

Tioga Downs STVSG  
fundraiser

**AUGUST**

**21**

### **KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

Breakfast, Blue  
Dolphin, Apalachin,  
0830 hrs. RSVP  
Ralph Luciani 607-  
748-2205

**AUGUST**

**22**

### **CHICKEN BBQ**

American LEgion Post  
1645 1100hrs

**AUGUST**

**27**

### **BATH VA STAND DOWN**

Dunn Field Elmira  
1000-1300 hrs

[stvsg.org](http://stvsg.org)

**Stronger Together**



# Community Events

For full details and registration, visit  
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## ONGOING EVENTS

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 1900HRS. POST 1194 HILLCREST

**"HEALING HAVEN" CREATES THAT SPACE — 1ST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7 P.M. – STRESS RELIEF FOR MILITARY SPOUSES**

**3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7 P.M. – SELF-CARE TOOLS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**

EVERY (MON), GY6 (GOT YOUR SIX) VETERANS PEER SUPPORT GROUP, MONDAY EVENINGS, 1800-1930 HRS., CITY OF LIGHT CHURCH, 300 LAKE ST., ELMIRA. PLUS: FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH IS WING NIGHT AT THE ELBOW ROOM, 1057 WALNUT ST., ELMIRA (EXCLUDES NATIONAL HOLIDAYS)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 1645 177 ROBINSON ST. LUNCH: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY 1130-1400 HRS. WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS DINNER IN THE LOUNGE 1800-2100 HRS

EVERY TUESDAY, COFFEE WITH CATY, 0900 VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER, 11 FREDERICK ST. BINGHAMTON

**SMILE THROUGH THE STORMS., A SUICIDE SURVIVORS SUPPORTGROUP COMES TOGETHER TWICE A MONTH - BOTH IN PERSON (FOR LOCAL SURVIVORS - HERE IN ELMIRA) AND VIRTUALLY. PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE LINK ON THE WEBSITE TO JOIN IN WHEN GROUP IS SCHEDULED. WEBSITE IS [HTTP://WWW.SMILETHROUGHTHESTORMS.COM](http://www.smilethroughthestorms.com)**

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY, THE BINGHAMTON VETERANS FLY FISHERS TIE FLIES AT THE BROOME WEST SENIOR CENTER, 2801 WAYNE ST., ENDICOTT. LUNCH IS OPTIONAL FOR ONLY \$4, 1300-1500 HRS.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY, THE BINGHAMTON VETERANS FLY FISHERS MEET AT THE WEST ENDICOTT FIRE STATION, 113 N. PAGE AVE., ENDICOTT. FREE PIZZA, WATER AND COFFEE. SOMETIMES FREE FLY FISHING GEAR AND BAKED GOODS, 1830 HRS.

EVERY (FRI) 0900-1000 HRS. VVA #803 VETERANS PEER SUPPORT GROUP, VIETNAM, VETERANS MUSEUM, 1200 DAVIS ST., ELMIRA (QUARTERLY BREAKFAST AT CURLEY'S CHICKEN HOUSE, 2100 LAKE ST., ELMIRA, 0800-1000 HRS.)

**FIRST (SAT) MONTHLY, VOICES RECOVERY CENTER VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP, 340 PROSPECT ST., BINGHAMTON, 1400 HRS.**