

Since 2008, 4100 injured veterans & 19 nonprofits awarded tools valued at over \$4.1 million

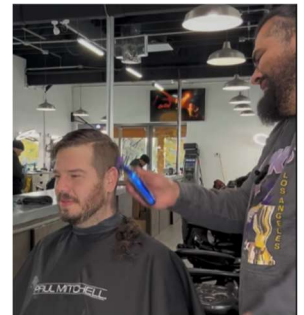
In 2024 WVFV...

From North Pole, Alaska to Key West, Florida, WVFV 2024 Awards went to veterans from 16 States. \$261,124 Awards to 22 Injured Veterans + 1 Nonprofit Organization (annually serving hundreds of injured veterans and their families).

Here are a few happy entrepreneurs who received 2024 WVFV Awards:



Army Sgt Ed Palmer of North Pole, Alaska with his new trailer to transport snow removal machines. He asked for any color trailer except "White! They'll never see me in a snowstorm!"



Navy PO Luis Hinojosa of San Diego, CA who started his new barbershop with tools from WVFV.



Army LtCol Tony Smith of Sanford, NC needed a warehouse forklift for his growing auction business.



Marine SGT Chris Connelly of Uncasville, CT translated his military skills in high security micro-miniature electronics into a new business making custom high security circuit boards for government and civilian contractors with WVFV equipment.



USAF Senior Airman Sara Squires of Stafford, VA sells herbals and potions using the commercial freeze dryer from WVFV. Her mentor tutored marketing skills and increased her annual sales.



Army SFC Nick Billig of Choctaw, OK waited a long time for his CNC machine to increase his product line of military-themed woodworking designs.



Fields 4 Valor is now a free farm share for veteran families in need. It also offers employment and volunteer opportunities for veterans. Since its inception, Fields4Valor has helped feed more than 500 veterans and their families each year in the DC Metro area. WVFV has given 2 BCS Walk-Behind Tractors.

2024 – Seven Partnerships with Semper Fi & America's Fund



- **BBQ Smoker** for 100% injured Army vet in Nashville, TN area
- Custom trailer adapted for her mobility injuries to USMC LtCol and her "Bee Battalions" for commercial pollination in NC.
- **Beer Tap Cleaning Equipment** for USMC SGT in Pacific Northwest to enable hiring additional veterans for his growing service to regional microbreweries and taprooms
- **Van** outfitted for transporting service dogs for training by injured

Marine in San Diego, CA area

- **Replacement Outboard Engine** for injured USMC Cpl for his innovative "Food Boat" serving food to hungry waders at beaches in Florida Keys
- **Custom trailer** adapted for mobility injuries for Army vet for his AV equipment to broadcast hockey games in Alaska.
- **Specialized woodworking tools** for NC injured Marine who makes custom staircases, veneer furniture and other high-end carpentry projects.



Work Vessels for Vets thanks our 2024 Volunteers and Sponsors

52 Volunteers - 9 Board members + 43 Mentors, Event support and Fundraising Volunteers



24 Corporate Sponsors including Fortunato Construction Group, Mystic Oysters, Grey Sail Brewers, Chelsea Groton Bank, Enterprise Builders, The Fisherman, McBurns on Main, and many others. See wvfv.org

In kind Donations & Discounts from Grey Sail Brewers of RI, New England Brewing, Grand Wine & Spirits Stores, Vigilante Drones, Alaska Marine Terminal, Earth Tools, NRS Fishing Gear of Idaho, B & H Photo Equipment, The Cartells, Paul Lussier Band and many more.

2024 Patriot Star Business Awards were presented to

Grey Sail Brewers of RI & NE Brewing of CT whose craft beer "Work Vessel" sales realized a \$15,000 donation

Fortunato Construction Group who sponsored the 12th Annual Lake of Isles Charity Golf Event resulting in \$44,000 to Work Vessels for Vets.

Save the Date!

WVFFV Annual Oyster Bash - July 18, 2025, Noank, CT





Work Vessels for Vets Celebrates Our Donors in 2024



Meet our 2024 Treasured Donor Christopher A. Seeger, Esq



Christopher A. Seeger, founding partner of Seeger Weiss, is a nationally recognized plaintiff attorney known for leading some of the most complex and high-profile litigations in the U.S. His work spans mass torts, product liability, antitrust, and consumer fraud cases.

Seeger has held key leadership roles in numerous landmark cases, and his work in resolving major cases and obtaining billions of dollars in compensation is unprecedented. He served as co-lead counsel in the 3M Combat Arms Earplug Litigation, representing service members who used dangerously defective earplugs, securing a \$6 billion settlement in 2023. His leadership in the National Prescription Opiate Litigation included serving on the Executive and Settlement Committees, where he helped secure over \$60 billion in settlements, including agreements with major pharmacy chains, opioid manufacturers, and distributors.

Other major results include a \$4.85 billion landmark global settlement with Merck on behalf of patients who suffered heart attacks and strokes while taking Vioxx, a \$21 billion-plus settlement with Volkswagen and Audi over the "clean diesel" scandal—the largest consumer auto industry class action settlement in U.S. history, a \$1.5 billion settlement for farmers impacted by Syngenta GMO seed contamination—the largest agricultural settlement in U.S. history, and a \$1 billion-plus uncapped settlement for retired NFL players and their families in the historic NFL concussion case.

The son of a union carpenter who worked his way through school, Chris is a former amateur boxer and a current Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt. Now, whether working on a class action involving thousands of people against a multinational conglomerate or an individual case protecting one client's rights, he fights with the same passion and conviction. In addition to his work at Seeger Weiss, he has served as Co-General Counsel for the Badge of Honor Memorial Foundation since 2008

“Chris is *Semper Fidelis* and *Semper Paratus* (always faithful and always ready) when WVFV has an especially worthy request for adaptive equipment that is beyond our capacity to fund,” praises Cathy Cook, Executive Director of WVFV. “One call to Chris, and “It is done!”

Over several years now, Chris has stepped in to go over and above for our veterans. He more than matched WVFV funds to purchase corral and cattle handling fencing for an injured veteran and his veteran wife in Maine. He offered matching funds for a much-needed tractor for a highly decorated Pennsylvania veteran with 5 deployments and many injuries. Chris also stepped in this year with a 2:1 match for an expensive track steer for an injured Army Green Beret with 5 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, earning 3 Bronze Stars for Valor.

On behalf of our veteran family, we thank you, Chris, for your philanthropy and caring!

Our Mission is to Equip America's Injured Veterans for Success



We are delighted that one of the best outcomes of our 16-year journey is the development of a network of veterans eager to help each other. WVFV matches past awardees with new applicants in similar enterprises to build teams focused on business success. Our Vet-to-Vet mentoring relationships use leadership and team-building skills honed by their military service to develop viable business plans for new applicants.

2023 Awardee TX BBQ master Steve Rossler (l) mentors new TX arrival Steve D'Amico (r) with his food truck business.



- We are **UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE, and NIMBLE**
NO OTHER nonprofit is solely dedicated to awarding critical/adaptive equipment to injured veteran-entrepreneurs, with limited red-tape, and creative solutions.

We are committed to Donor Integrity – Our Administrative overhead is UNDER 2%

- Veterans are matched with qualified volunteer and peer-to-peer mentors
- OVER 4100 injured veterans have been assisted since 2008
- In all 50 states & US Territories
- Over \$4 Million in equipment sent to injured veteran enterprises
- Over \$48 Million in economic activity created by new veteran businesses*
- More than 650 new businesses creating thousands of new jobs*
- \$3+ Million in corporate “in-kind” donations awarded since 2008*

Work Vessels for Vets provides critical equipment and direct services to injured veterans who see self-employment as a way forward to accommodate frequent medical appointments and “bad days.”* Our commitment is recognized with the highest national ratings including GUIDE STAR's highest recognition - PLATINUM STATUS for Efficiency & Transparency, TOP RATED NONPROFIT by GreatNonProfits rating agency, and Accredited Charity by Better Business Bureau.

Learn more about us to **DONATE** or **APPLY** on line at www.WorkVesselsforVeterans.org

