



Warriors for Warriors

*Free acupuncture treatment and Post-Traumatic Stress Wellness Education
for U.S. Military and Veterans*

VISION: *No veteran takes his or her life, or suffers PTS, pain, or hopelessness.*

MISSION: *To end veteran suicide and suffering, promote optimism, holistic wellness and True Warriorship, and restore the promise that America takes care of our warriors.*

November, 2019

Dear Friend:

I'd like to tell you about my friend, Gregory Charles, one of the thousands of veterans who return home from combat suffering with serious issues like post-traumatic stress (PTS), severe injuries, and chronic pain. Gregory Charles has broken 37 bones in the service of this country.

Having enlisted in the US Navy in 1969 at 18, he became a US Navy Frogman, and saw action during the Vietnam War. After leaving the Navy and realizing he missed this life, as so many veterans do, he re-enlisted. He was admitted into an Army Special Forces Group.

The work was difficult but, Gregory Charles knew as did all the others in SF, this was where he belonged. The training was always for real, as it is during combat. During one Airborne Operation, a parachute jump, he was severely injured.

As we have all seen in the news, the VA is overwhelmed and unable to give optimal care to all of our veterans. In many tragic cases, veterans have died waiting for the care they were promised. Many, like Gregory Charles, found no relief from the therapies and medications prescribed by VA doctors that cannot touch their pain or heal the lasting effects of trauma.

And the sad truth is, perhaps in part because the wait is so long and medications don't solve their problems or ease their pain, 20 American veterans commit suicide every day.

As I'm sure you agree, that number is simply unacceptable. But here's the good news: you can help veterans in Connecticut get the care they deserve—care that will actually treat their symptoms and heal their underlying psychological wounds. Because an extraordinary organization, Warriors for Warriors (WfW), does just that.

WfW is a non-profit organization that offers free treatments and counseling to veterans— with expert acupuncture and PTS-wellness education that offers steady, measurable results, and effectively addresses their issues by caring for the whole person—mind, body, and spirit.

We've been able to give over 5,000 free treatments to date, and every day, more veterans are hearing about WfW and coming to us for help. The bad news is that our fundraising cannot keep pace with the costs of treating so many brave veterans who need our help.

Please make a contribution today of \$20, \$50, or even \$100 so that we don't have to turn away any veterans who are suffering every day. Charter Oak Credit Union will match any gift made by its members now through November 27, 2019 and Pfizer and other corporations match employee gifts, so check with your employer to see if they will match your gift. And then please be as generous as you can with a gift to Warriors for Warriors today.

WfW collaborates with other non-profits that are helping to bridge the VA funding gap— by partially or fully funding an initial series of treatments. But even with this bridge, veterans might have to wait as long as nine months for VA approval for treatments to begin.

(Over, please)

YES! I want to make a tangible difference for our veterans by making a contribution to *Warriors for Warriors*. Please accept my gift of:

Please check one: \$20 \$50 \$100 Other amount: \$ _____

Contributions to Warriors for Warriors are tax deductible as allowed by law: IRS number #46-5479685.

Name/Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please make your check payable to *Warriors for Warriors* and mail it with this form to:

Warriors for Warriors, 339 Flanders Road, Suite 107, East Lyme, CT 06333.

-- Or simply click "DONATE" on our website *WarriorsforWarriors.US*. Thank you.

With your support today, WfW can treat veterans right away, when they need to be seen, and start the healing process—before they turn to alcohol, drugs, and despair. Since we started, our work has *prevented at least 21 veterans' suicides*, and given many a reason to hope again.

This immediate attention is at least as important to veterans as the treatment itself. It shows them that America takes care of her heroes, like our veterans took care of us when they signed up to serve. We have not forgotten them.

One thing Gregory Charles will never forget is an underwater operation during the war. Following an explosion, he was trapped about 25 feet below the surface under some wreckage when his air supply ran out. His unforgettable recollection prior to going unconscious was his teammate, who was also injured, dragging him to the surface and safety. They both faced death that day as many veterans still do. His dear friend has since died, but those memories are imprinted in Gregory Charles's mind for life. As he has explained, "Reliving this event and other similar events that were experienced is commonplace and the guilty feeling that I survived when friends did not is sometimes unbearable."

Before acupuncture treatments, Gregory Charles was prescribed multiple medications to deal with the injuries, flashbacks, and nightmares haunting his days and nights. He followed all his doctors' advice, but the medications and treatments, including several major surgeries, only partially addressed his physical and mental pain, or were completely ineffective. And, he says, "These medications nearly all had serious side effects, yet the pain and the vivid dreams from PTSD continued over the 50 years since Vietnam."

I'm happy to tell you that Gregory Charles is doing much better. He says, "When I gave acupuncture a try, the result had a direct and immediate effect on both the physical pain and the intense dreams. It had been many years since I had a pain-free and dream-free night. The acupuncture treatments have reduced the severe and immobilizing shoulder, knee, and spinal pain. He says, "It has allowed me to move again, and has truly been incredible. The work being done by Warriors for Warriors simply amazes me."

Gregory Charles has made incredible progress with acupuncture treatments, as well as a full range of comprehensive, holistic programs that WfW offers our veterans. I am thrilled that we have been able to help him...but, there are many more veterans that need our help. Veterans who volunteered to serve and came home to find their lives torn apart by pain and illness.

Gregory Charles has received many free consultations and treatments, because of the kindness of Warriors for Warriors supporters. But our current funding cannot keep up with the demand, and that is why I am turning to you for your support today. Please make a generous gift to Warriors for Warriors, of \$20, \$50, or even \$100 or more so we can help more veterans get their lives back on track.

I've been practicing Asian medicine for more than 30 years, and have seen remarkable results through these ancient and gentle healing practices. I've always treated veterans and service members, but I developed specific protocols to combat PTS and other stress-related illnesses that veterans experience, when I volunteered to treat residents of Newtown after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. When I saw how much we could help these anguished people with immediate treatment, I knew I could do more for our veterans.

WfW's work is so important, because it can help our vets truly enjoy life again. My greatest wish is that no veteran takes his or her life, or suffers PTS, pain, or hopelessness. Today, you can help to make that wish a reality by making a contribution to Warriors for Warriors. Together, we can show our veterans how much we appreciate their service on our behalf, and help them live happier, healthier lives.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season, and a happy New Year.

Sincerely,



David LoPriore, L.Ac.
Executive Director, Warriors for Warriors

P.S. It's easy to feel helpless, knowing that 20 veterans who courageously served our country commit suicide every day—but there is something that you can do about it. Please make a generous contribution to Warriors for Warriors today, to help us help our veterans. And please check with your employer to see if it they will match your gift. Thank you.