

At Operation North State, (ONS), an-all volunteer military support services organization, we are all about utilizing North Carolina's People, Places, Products and Pride to show support to North Carolina's deployed troops and veterans-in-need. We try not to duplicate support services currently being provided by other support services organizations. Our services are derived from the requests of deployed troops, veterans-in-need and their respective caregivers and case workers. Their requests keep us busy and we are honored to serve them!

There is so much to tell you regarding projects and status updates. It's best if we just highlight some of our recent, current and upcoming news, projects, issues and needs below. If you would like to discuss any of the items and/or offer your support, please contact Operation North State at mailbox@operationnorthstate.com or by telephone: [336.406.3459](tel:336.406.3459).

We have several new and fun projects underway. Unfortunately, we are having to turn away several projects and requests due to limitation on our staff resources and financial capacity. We will eventually get to all of these projects and requests; it just takes time, money and YOU! We would be honored to have you join our efforts. AND, to all the current ONS volunteers and supporters, our successful deliverables and services are made possible because of you! To you, we are most grateful!

Until our next update, you can stay current on Operation North State's happenings by visiting Facebook: Operation North State where the daily posts and dozens of photo albums share our love, appreciation and gratitude for our deployed troops and veterans-in-need.

OVERVIEW TOPICS:

- ONS' Top Shelf Fishin' Festivals (7 Festivals in 2016) (#1 fishing project for wounded warriors and disabled veterans in the state – probably in the country)
- Major Recreational Outing (currently in the planning stages): The 1st Ever "Veterans Appreciation Day" (Spring 2017) to be held at the NC Zoo – We are now leaning more toward a "Veterans and Active Military Appreciation Day" which will welcome a very special NC co-host!
- Requested Recreational Outing: Wounded Warriors and Disabled Veterans are requesting to attend several minor league baseball games with their fellow comrades this summer. ONS is currently looking at hosting 3 ball games this summer - 100 guys and gals each night. We are looking to organizations and companies to assist with these Special Nights for these Special Americans.
- Donated Recreational Outing(s): Individuals and fishing/sportsman clubs are offering one-on-one, off-shore, kayak and pond fishing outings to the wounded warriors and disabled veterans we serve.
 - NCCARES Christmas Box Project (#1 NC-themed project in the state – probably in the country). Get involved – it's an awesome project.
 - 2015 Special collections: Hundreds of toys were donated to ONS for the children of NC's deployed troops and thousands of \$\$\$s in K-9 items were collected which we sent to several combat war dogs and their handlers. These services will be expanded 1000+ % in 2016 with the addition of our new NCCARES Christmas Project collection boxes around the state. Let us know if you need collections boxes.
 - Awards: Received from the North Carolina National Guard, Marine Corp Legion and Governor McCrory's Order of the Long Leaf Pine.
 - Special Needs Met (but needs to expand due to the incredible demand): ONS is being asked to provide on-demand/daily SHARE BOXES to deployed troops and chaplains located at APOs. Our current SHARE BOXES are filled with old-fashioned Red Bird Peppermint Puffs, bottles of Texas Pete and shakers of Bojangles' Seasoning. We're always looking for more items to enclose but we really need to secure funding for shipping costs.
 - Special Request Granted: We provided electric fishing reels (3) for a blind and paralyzed wounded warrior.
 - Special Request Granted: We secured an annual commitment of coffee for the veterans living in the State Veterans (nursing) Home – Salisbury /Bldg. #10 VAMC to enjoy while seating in their day lobby. Coffee provided by S&D Coffee.....
 - Special Request Granted: We're currently providing NC-themed Welcome Bags to the Independence Fund in Charlotte for their patients coming in from around the country. Google the Independence "Indy" Fund. Their services are "life-changing".
 - Special Project Underway: Hundreds if not thousands of collection boxes are being manufactured to assist with our 2016 NCCARES Christmas Box Project. It will be a huge help to be able to offer quality/profession-grade collection boxes to donors to assist them in the collections of items for our NCCARES Christmas Boxes. These items will be provided to deployed troops, combat war dogs, children of deployed troops and veterans-in-need. THANK YOU WESTROCK CORP IN WINSTON-SALEM FOR THIS GENEROUS DONATION.

ISSUES:

- ONS can't meet all the demands of wounded warriors and disabled veterans and their respective caregivers and loved-ones
- The If It Fits – It Ships (USPS) 2016 rate increase is very tough on our NCCARES Christmas Box Project – the rate to ship to an APO is now up to \$18.75 per box. And, it's another \$2.00 if the box stays here in the states. This represents a 63% increase over the past 5 years. For three years now, ONS has requested the need for the USPS to develop/offer a (bulk rate) for projects such as our NCCARES Christmas Box Project – 1000+ packages. We are very pleased that a senior representative at the USPS now understands our request and the service we provide deployed troops. He has agreed to sponsor our request to the USPS executives.

NEEDS:

- Pickup Truck (we drive 35K miles per year) – a pledge has been made by a NC corporation to provide ONS a truck. We look forward to announcing the donor's name soon.
- Volunteer to manage a project from A-Z (5-10 hours per week). Work from home.
- We need a grant writer (volunteer)
- Assistance in funding our SHARE BOX Project – we ship 40-60 packages per month
- Help fund one of our Minor League Baseball Game outings (3 games @ \$1,000 per game)
- To purchase office supplies: (2) laptops, a printer, office supplies (print cartridges and thumb drives)
- Help Fund NCCARES Christmas Box Project
- Perform print jobs of 200-300 copies – we average (2-3 of these jobs each month)

OPERATION NORTH STATE IS MOST HONORED TO SUPPORT AND RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING NORTH CAROLINA ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

- American Legion – Department of NC
- Camp Lejeune's Wounded Warrior Regiment
- Fort Bragg Warrior Transition Battalion
- Independence "Indy" Fund
- North Carolina National Guard
- Patriot Charities
- Purple Heart Homes
- Richards Coffee Shop (Mooresville)
- Specialized Inpatient PTSD Program at VAMC - Salisbury
- (4) State Veterans (nursing) Homes (Fayetteville, Salisbury, Black Mountain and Kinston)
- The Servant Center (Greensboro)
- Veterans Helping Veterans Heal (Winston-Salem)
- USO of North Carolina

In closing, we ALL have "Capacity" in our lives – time, money, care, compassion, etc.... Some of us have more than others. At Operation North State, we encourage ALL to utilize your capacity and serve others – family, friends, community, etc. As for our Veterans Community, support and better understand them and their needs when you can. Several months ago, I developed www.operationvsources.com as a directory of quality information/website links to assist me better understanding our veterans and the services available to them. This website has helped me tremendously. It can assist veterans in locating much needed support services and for Joe or Jane Public, they will better understand and appreciate the "Veterans Community".

Thanks,
Terry

Terry Snyder
Founder/Chairman/Proud Volunteer
Operation North State
151 Windemere Ct.
Winston-Salem, NC 27127
office: [336.764.5967](tel:336.764.5967)
cell: [336.406.3459](tel:336.406.3459)
<http://www.operationnorthstate.com>