

VETERAN'S FREEDOM CENTER

Ryan Oftedahl, BCC

All Gave Some, Some Gave All: Freedom Isn't Free

Back in early 2004, I was attending Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The then Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force ("CMSAF"), Gerald R Murray, came to the training wing chapel with thousands of newly enlisted young people in attendance to impart a lasting impression upon us as to what our primary mission would be in the coming months and years. CMSAF Murray said, "Your number one job, and the reason that you are here, is to break shit and kill people." CMSAF Murray spoke at length that day, but I will never forget the stark reality of his words and the very real threats to our way of life that must be protected at all costs.

To serve in the military is to write a blank check to the United States of America of up to and including one's life. You become the property and instrument of the United States to exact it's will across the entire globe. For those that don't make the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield, the scars of battle run deep physically and psychologically. We, as a society, owe veterans a debt of gratitude, respect and assistance to help them cope after Active Duty.

I, therefore, request that a Jean Day be held for the Veteran's Freedom Center so that they may continue their mission:

"Our Veteran's Freedom Center exists to meet the needs of active duty, reserve and all Honorably Discharged Tri-State military veterans.

We offer a place for these veterans to interact with fellow veterans, network together and enjoy the camaraderie that all have shared while proudly serving their country. We create close interpersonal relationships among our veterans.

We are 100% non-profit and all staff members are unpaid volunteers"

"For those in need of assistance financially, physically or mentally we have the resource information to pass along to the veteran accordingly. The center also offers a woodworking shop, scroll sawing, arts and craft, and daily social interaction. Leisure activities such as pool, darts, cards, shuffle board, music, and computer usage are also accessible to our veterans. These activities are at no cost to the veteran"

The above statement alone doesn't scratch the surface of the importance and impact of what this center means to the Veteran community and to those who gave of themselves for our Freedom.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Ryan Oftedahl, MIS (Senior Airman, USAF)