



Operation Comfort Warriors
represents the Legion's expression
of gratitude to those who
sacrificed to protect our freedoms.



HOW RECIPIENTS BENEFIT

Today, wounded warriors need a variety of items to help in their recovery. Some patients require loose-fitting sweatshirts to cover their healing wounds without adding pressure to burns sustained in combat. Others use fitness equipment to rebuild strength in their muscles. Still others enjoy the camaraderie and fresh air that come from a fishing trip, thanks to donated gear.

Some gifts have included sports equipment for the adaptive therapy program at Fort Jackson, gift cards to patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and fishing and kayak gear at Fort Drum.

The success of the program relies entirely on donations, which are used to purchase items for U.S. servicemembers.

To make a donation, go to legion.org/ocw.

A large photograph showing a man in a teal polo shirt and khaki shorts standing next to a blue and white paddleboard. He is holding a paddle with "PADDLE" written on it. Behind him is a building with a large mural of the American flag. The words "Operation Comfort Warriors" are overlaid in white text on the upper right of the mural. The American Legion logo is visible on the left side of the mural. At the bottom, the text "Because we care" is overlaid in large white letters.

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OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have drawn to a close, many servicemembers left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) returned home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has estimated that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered a TBI.

Even when not at war, those in the military still face inherent dangers during training exercises and while performing other hazardous duties.

While the care at military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "non-essentials" – items that help wounded warriors in their recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets. OCW is not a program designed to help with bills (mortgage, rent, utilities or credit cards), car repairs or home repairs.

HOW TO HELP

Most military medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. The Legion strongly prefers monetary donations so that it can expedite the purchase and delivery of items to servicemembers.

HOW TO GIVE: Visit legion.org/ocw to donate electronically, using your credit card. Checks may be mailed to The American Legion, Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 361626, Indianapolis, IN 46236.

HOW TO RAISE MONEY: A fundraiser such as a motorcycle run or a fish fry can be a great way to gather donations. A Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, Legion Riders chapter, church group or other charitable organization could assist in sponsoring a fundraiser. Proceeds from a fundraising event can be donated to OCW via the website or mailing address listed above.

HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Check out legion.org/ocw for the latest news and information about the program.



HOW IT WORKS

The American Legion is contacted by individuals, VA hospitals, warrior transition centers and communities with needs for wounded, injured, disabled or ill servicemembers. Once a need is identified, the items are ordered by the Legion and delivered in an expeditious manner. It's as simple as that. No red tape.

All of OCW's administrative and marketing costs are paid from Legion membership dues, meaning that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for the servicemembers.