



WVI NEWSLETTER

June
2026

Sheroes Hangout



Carolyn Nagy (Army) recently traveled to India, where she visited Sheroes Hangout, a café in Agra that supports women who are survivors of acid attacks. The café's mission is to raise awareness about acid violence while empowering survivors. Its waitstaff are survivors themselves, and the café's profits help fund their rehabilitation and medical care. In addition, the women are offered classes in basic skills, crafts, and conversational English.

Before joining the café, many of the women lived in isolation, coping with deep shame and trauma. About half were attacked by relatives, and most were harmed by someone they knew—often after rejecting marriage proposals or unwanted advances. Following their injuries, many rarely left their homes due to stigma surrounding their appearance. Several endured multiple surgeries and struggled to find employment, while also facing pressure from family or their communities to remain silent.

Sheroes Hangout provides these women with a sense of acceptance, community, and financial independence. Today, some have become the primary earners for their families. The café itself is vibrant and welcoming, decorated with colorful murals, books, and a gift shop, and now employs 35 women.

WVI is an initiative of the non-profit United States Vets, Inc.

Strive for 500

The "Strive for 500" campaign is a Military Women's Memorial initiative to get each state to register at least 500 military women in 2026 to share their stories and experiences in the Memorial's National Digital Repository. The goal is to document and preserve the history of all women who have served in or with the U.S. Armed Forces, including approximately 67,000 here in Ohio. Participation is free and open to all women veterans, who can register by creating an account on the Military Women's Memorial website

WomensMemorial.org.

Please share with other military women!

Book Club

WVI has recently received a request to start a monthly book club. WVI would like to survey our members to check on interest. Express interest, by emailing cenagy@bex.net.

cont. Sheroes

While reading the quotes displayed on the café walls, Carolyn reflected on the similarities between these women's experiences and those of women veterans, particularly those who attended The SHERoes at the Ranch event in June 2025. Several messages stood out to her, including: "empowerment," "my beauty is my smile," "if we are alive, we can endure many things," "unstoppable," "enjoy the little things," "unbreakable," and "unmatched."

Note: Each year, approximately 150 acid attack cases are reported, often involving individuals between the ages of 11 and 30.

Picture: provided by C. Nagy

Save the date

Women Veteran Appreciation Day is June 12, 2026

June 16: "The Unexpected Power of Adversity" will be presented at Genesis Village (2429 Reynolds Rd.) on Tuesday, June 16. The presentation will be from 6:00pm-7:00pm followed by a meet and greet until 8:00pm. Snacks provided. Free. RSVP: by June 12 to cenagy@bex.net. To learn more about Cindy (speaker) go to www.clskeynoteconcerts.com

June 20: "Giveaway and Fundraiser: Clothing and household "Giveaway" will be held Saturday, June 20 from 10:00am – 3:00pm at 1206 Elco Avenue, Maumee. The items will be free for women veterans. This will also be a fundraiser that the community is welcome to attend for a donation. Giveaway items: new women's clothing size small to 7x, infant and small sleep wear plus miscellaneous house hold items.

July 19: Veteran Family Picnic: United States Vets, Inc. Veteran Family Picnic will be held Sunday, July 19 from 11:00am-3:00pm at Olander Park (6930 Sylvania Ave) open air shelter #1. RSVP: May 15 to cenagy@bex.net. Lunch served at noon. Note: Location change.

Sing While You Work

In honor of America 250, the Toledo Opera, Wolfe Family Foundation, and the Veterans Service Commission hosted an event at Forest Cemetery on May 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to identify veteran grave sites. Attendees were treated to a delicious lunch provided by Manhattans Pub and Cheer and a "Sing first, ask later" T-shirt.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the following WVI volunteers who braved the cold to support this meaningful effort: C. Nagy (Army), S. Trotter (Navy), E.

Sepeda (Army), G. Cousino (Army), J. Rambo, C. Stiles, L. Fletcher, F. Kieninger, and J. Edmunds (Army).

Note: According to a Facebook posting, a week later a small group of volunteers were able to locate and uncover forty veteran stones.

Picture: provided by C. Nagy

