

Michigan Veteran Homes

A Place of Honor & Compassion

June 2023



Leaving a Legacy

The first State Veterans Home was opened in Connecticut in 1864. Michigan opened its Home in Grand Rapids in 1886, and [MVH at Grand Rapids](#) is now one of [more than 160 State Veteran Homes](#) throughout the country. In April 1886, five acres of the Home's historic campus was set aside to serve as a cemetery for its veterans, and has been serving as a resting place of honor ever since.

Today, however, space is running low, and MVH is actively pursuing cost estimates to add a columbarium and associated work to the cemetery to be able to inter the remains of veteran members and their loved ones for generations to come. The MVHGR campus is steeped in history, and through generosity with this project, intends to remain a final resting place of veterans for generations to come. If you or your organization have an interest in leaving a legacy through this developing effort, contact Ryan Engle, MVH's Director of Development & Strategic Engagement, at EngleR3@michigan.gov to learn more.



Summer Experiences at MVH

As weather warms, opportunities abound for veteran members, their families, and the communities MVH serves. In Grand Rapids, you'll find a fishing derby and a dog show amongst many other life enriching opportunities for the veterans that make it their Home.

At the Jacobetti, the annual Pictured Rocks boat cruise is on the books, as well as the classic car show, the fish pond event, and more. Pictured is the outcome of this year's Boar Hunt provided to the Jacobetti annually for more than two decades, courtesy of Terry Weigold from U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County. Congrats to Army veteran Duane Hollingshead on the 250lbs. boar: a feast for members at the Jake.

In southeast Michigan, Chesterfield Twp. has motorcycle rallies and cookouts lined up, their annual Luau and Pig Roast, and many other activities scheduled.

All of these experiences and events are possible because of the generosity of community, through sponsorships, volunteering, donations, and more. If your organization has interest in joining the mission of Michigan Veteran Homes - we invite you in. [There are many ways to make a difference.](#)



Generosity at the Jacobetti

For more than four decades, the generosity of Yoopers has directly benefitted veteran members at MVH D.J. Jacobetti in Marquette - and it doesn't seem to be slowing down anytime soon. Whether [donating goods](#), selflessly [volunteering their time](#), or [monetary giving](#), Yoopers graciously show up - and show out - in supporting those who've served, and that now call the Jake their "Home."

For example, in early May, the [Jacobetti received a \\$25k grant](#) from the Superior Health Foundation: a remarkably generous investment that will further support health and safety through advanced infection control equipment. Additionally (pictured), Administrator Ron Oja and Director of Nursing Cary Lincoln graciously accepted a \$7,000 check, presented by Jim Hofbauer from VFW Grant-Nyman Post 5014 in Republic, MI, toward the Home's Charitable Support Fund. The Fund supports life enrichment and quality of life enhancing experiences for members of the Home.

MVH encourages Yoopers and non-Yoopers alike to join - or rejoin - that legacy of giving through the [26th Annual Charity Golf Outing](#) on June 29th at the Marquette Golf Club. Team registrations, sponsorship opportunities, and item donations are still available, with all event proceeds supporting life enrichment at the Jacobetti.



Veterans 2nd Annual Run, Walk & Roll a Success for Chesterfield Township

On May 13th, [MVH at Chesterfield Township](#) hosted their 2nd Annual 5k event for members, families, staff, volunteers, and sponsors. All proceeds from the event went to the Home's Charitable Support Fund, which funds life enrichment and quality of life enhancement opportunities for members of the home. With approximately 130 participants, it was an amazing and successful day. More than \$12,000 was raised for life enrichment: all dollars that will enrich the lives of those we serve.

The event consisted of a 1-miler, where dozens of veteran members rolled the race in their wheelchairs, as well as a 5k of walkers and runners. Next year, the Home plans to open the event as a community race, so consider joining us in 2024. A special thanks to the event sponsors for making this year's 5k successful: "Friends of MVH at Chesterfield Twp," MGM Dumpsters, American Graphics Printing Co., Therapy Management, Inc., C.A.R.O.L.S. Army, Military Order of the Purple Heart Dept. of MI, and DAV South Oakland Chapter 19, in addition to the many partners who donated items for the silent auction.

More than 12,000 smiles were surely raised on race day as well. If you're interested in making an impact and joining our mission, [click here to learn more.](#)



MVH at Grand Rapids: A Place of Honor & Compassion

On May 24th, [MVH at Grand Rapids](#), in partnership with Scouts of America, held its annual [Flag Placement event](#) at the Home's on-campus cemetery, in honor of Memorial Day. A cookout, generously sponsored by the [UPS Veterans Business Resource Group](#), preceded the ceremony.

After some food and fellowship, colors were marched across the bridge in solemn ceremony, and individual flags were placed at each of the 5,000+ headstones, beneath which veterans dating back to the Civil War make their final resting place.

The Home and its grounds have been serving veterans since 1886. Private Nelson Kilmer was the first burial in MVHGR's cemetery, after he passed away on Jan. 6th, 1886. He served in the 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and fought in Perryville, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Sherman's March to the Sea, amongst other skirmishes. MVH at Grand Rapids is honored to serve as the final resting place for so many Michigan heroes.



Meijer Leadership Conducts Day of Service at MVH at Chesterfield Township

In early May, dozens of leaders from Meijer's East Michigan Region converged on [MVH at Chesterfield Township](#) for a day of service and beautification at the Home's sprawling campus. Joined by many of their vendor partners, they planted hundreds of flowers and shrubs, cleared brush, and held a cookout for staff and members of the Home.

Meijer's volunteer service primed the Home's grounds for spring and the enjoyment of the Home's members. It also beautified the path for the Home's 5k, just days later. And, it all started with an email. If you're organization is seeking ways to make a difference in the lives of those who've served, consider [contacting Michigan Veteran Homes.](#)