



# HVAF Happenings

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## November 2017



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## Operation Alpha 2017: A night full of 'extraordinary generosity'

Predicted to be the "most ambitious fundraiser yet," Operation Alpha lived up to the hype and provided a night full of memorable cocktails, delicious food, live music, auction bidding and much more.

For the past three years, HVAF of Indiana and Hotel Tango Artisan Distillery have teamed up to host Operation Alpha. Travis Barnes, a service-disabled Marine Corps veteran and co-owner of Hotel Tango, started the event at the distillery to help veterans in need.

The evening kicked off with guests arriving at The Tinker House Events to a bar stocked with Sun King Brewery beer, Monarch Beverage wine and Hotel Tango spirits, and tables of food filled with City BBQ, Jacquie's Gourmet Catering and Black Plate Catering.

Senator Joe Donnelly was a special guest at this year's event. He spoke with attendees about the importance of taking care of our homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. When speaking in front of everyone, Sen. Donnelly referenced Matthew 7:12, "do to others what you would have them do to you."

"When you think about that, you're doing God's work," Sen. Donnelly said, adding how HVAF's mission follows this verse. "It's a ministry of its own."

The night continued with a silent and live auction, with guests walking away with Pacers tickets, a resort vacation, the opportunity to be a distiller and much, much more.

The highlight of the evening included HVAF CEO & President— and veteran— Brian Copes leading a one-of-a-kind Grog Bowl Ceremony. Brian honored our former and current service members by inviting veterans to participate in the making of the "grog," a very special cocktail, while paying homage to our country's military history and the service and sacrifices of our veterans.



Sen. Joe Donnelly spoke to the audience about why it's important to help HVAF's cause. Photos by Gabrielle Cheikh.



HVAF President & CEO Brian Copes led the special grog ceremony this year.

HVAF's cash goal for the night was \$11,011, in honor of Veterans Day, 11/11. By the end of the evening, guests donated a total of \$18,220, making the grand total for Operation Alpha \$32,000, doubling last year's total.

"I continue to be surprised and humbled by the extraordinary generosity of people who share our passion for helping veterans in need," Copes said. "A simple thank you falls short. We probably best express our appreciation by being good stewards of what we're given."

Hilary Barnes, co-owner of Hotel Tango, said the staff is "still beaming" from this year's event.

"From the Tinker House venue, a visit from Senator Donnelly, to the music and the Grog Bowl ceremony – it was such a moving and fun evening celebrating veterans," Barnes said. "And above all, HVAF surpassed its fundraising goal! This year was the biggest Operation Alpha event yet, and we're excited to start working on next year."



To see all of the fun times from the evening, check out the full gallery on our [Facebook page!](#)

## High schooler trick-or-treats for veterans

When thinking about Halloween, most kids look forward to getting lots of different candy when going trick-or-treating with friends. But that is not the same story for 15-year-old Natalie Cash.



Instead of going door-to-door and collecting candy, she collected canned goods and other non-perishable items to give to HVAF's veterans.

"I thought it was a good idea because I feel like teenagers automatically get a bad name," Natalie said. "I thought it might be a good thing to do."

The reason Natalie chose to help homeless veterans specifically is because her father, SSG Jacob Cash, is an Army veteran.

Natalie also said she plans to keep collecting items for veterans in the future.

"They've given so much to our country and they don't deserve to be homeless," Natalie said. "They've done so much for us so we should do more for them."

## HVAF honors Don Moreau, Sr.

The life and legacy of one of the founders of HVAF and its first CEO, Col. (ret.) Donald W. Moreau, Sr., was honored Sept. 27 at a memorial service in the Pershing Auditorium of the Indiana War Memorial. Col. Moreau died Aug. 23 at age 89. His obituary can be accessed [here](#).

The service was conducted with military honors, which included the Military Department of Indiana Ceremonial Unit Color Guard and the playing of "Taps." Speakers included Indiana National Guard Assistant Adjutant General Timothy Thombleson and Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett

The Mayor declared September 27 "The Legacy of Col. Donald W. Moreau, Sr. Day" in Indianapolis through a proclamation that noted Col. Moreau's 28 years in the military, 18 years of service to the State of Indiana, and receiving a Sagamore of the Wabash from eight Indiana governors.

In that spirit, HVAF Board Chair Trent Sandifur and CEO Brian Copes announced the creation of The Colonel Donald W. Moreau, Sr. Legacy Fund to support the Moreau House, currently home to 30 formerly homeless veterans. The Fund is approaching \$50,000 in donations, which includes a \$10,000 gift from the Indianapolis Foundation.



If you would like to help our homeless veterans through a contribution to the Legacy Fund, you may click on this [link](#).

Col. Moreau will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on March 16, 2018.

## Meet Lauren Carpenter



One night this past summer, I was spending time reflecting on my first few months out of college. After graduating with a journalism degree from Indiana Wesleyan University in May, I was wondering exactly what I wanted to do. One of the biggest factors on my "dream job" list? Helping others.

A few days later, I found out about an open position at HVAF, where I would be a part of a mission that helps others every single day. I applied as soon as I could and am so blessed to be a part of the HVAF team for a little more than one month now.

I am so excited to be HVAF's advancement coordinator as I get to still use my journalism skills with writing press releases, creating the monthly newsletter and being in charge of the social media accounts. But most importantly, I get to be a part of a team who helps those who have sacrificed their lives for us.

I am excited to continue sharing what all HVAF is doing to help our veterans. If you have any stories, ideas or suggestions you would like to share with me, feel free to contact me at [lcarpenter@hvaf.org](mailto:lcarpenter@hvaf.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

## Outreach Shout out!

Thanks to those who helped out at HVAF in November!

Do you have a group that would like to help in our food, clothing and hygiene pantries? Call 317-951-0688 for more info!

## Connect with us!

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We are also on Instagram! Follow us @HVAFofIndiana



Evolent



Marian University



TrueU



KAR Services



Church 52



BidPal

## HVAF Needs:

- ~Canned meat
- ~Crackers
- ~Cookies
- ~Shaving cream
- ~Canned fruit
- ~Pasta
- ~Pop tarts
- ~Razors

Drop off your donations to HVAF Headquarters today!