

NYCHA ★ BRAVE HEARTS SHOOTOUT

Military Veterans
Top Trainers
Youth Ambassadors
Performance Horses
ONE INCREDIBLE DAY

#nychabraveheartsshootout

WATT ARENA | FORT WORTH, TX | JULY 27, 2022

Welcome to the 2022 NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout! On behalf of the National Cutting Horse Association, National Youth Cutting Horse Association and BraveHearts, we are so glad you are here.

The NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout was formed in 2021 to provide United States veterans from the BraveHearts program with an amazing opportunity unlike any other in the equine industry. This event is a small way in which we can honor the extraordinary sacrifices our men and women in arms have made that allow each of us the freedom to enjoy a lifestyle that we love.

The BraveHearts veterans have spent months working with NYCHA members and NCHA professionals, several of whom have been inducted into the NCHA Hall of Fame, in order to prepare for this competition. The branches represented in this year's Shootout include veterans from the United States Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy along with a Gold Star father. These teams have worked hard for this moment, and I have no doubt that this will be an intense and exciting competition.

Each team consists of a veteran, trainer, and ambassadors from the NYCHA program. These youth members have spent time establishing a relationship with each veteran and are ready to help cheer them on to victory!

I would like to thank our partners at BraveHearts for working diligently with us to host a successful event. By inviting us to share our passion and excitement for the cutting horse, we allow these veterans to experience the healing power of the horse in new ways. The staff and volunteers at BraveHearts work hard each day towards their mission of bringing hope, joy, and unlimited possibilities through the healing power of the horse to each of the veterans in their program. I encourage you to take the time to visit with the veterans and BraveHearts staff to listen to their stories and to learn more about this program and the life-changing impact it has had.

To the heroic men and women that are here competing today, to those struggling with their own battles at home, and to those who never made it back, please know that you have our undying gratitude. We owe you a debt that can never be repaid, and I am honored to be here today cheering you on.

This is truly an event like no other, and I want to thank the families, exhibitors, sponsors, and cutting horse fans, for your support of this event and of our veterans.

Sincerely,



Jay Winborn
NCHA Executive Director



Dear Spectators,

Thank you so much for coming to watch the 2nd Annual NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout!

We are so grateful to everyone who makes this event come to fruition! Starting with thank you's, first goes to our most celebrated veterans whom we owe all our gratitude. To the entire NCHA, their amazing staff, and the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout Committee for working tirelessly to make this event happen, we say thank you. To the trainers and long-time friends who believed in the vision of the event and stood on the ready to coach with all their heart and passion to help veterans learn the art of cutting, may God bless you all. And to the sponsors, many who have supported BraveHearts, cutters and dear friends, thank you for sharing your passion of cutting with our veterans.

This event came about because of Gold Star Father, Mr. Ken Boyd who got his first cutting horse years ago. This heart horse of Ken's, called "Brother" fortuitously named as Ken's son C.J.'s gave the ultimate sacrifice (KIA 8-19-10 in Afghanistan). At BraveHearts, when we choose to do something, we do it with the intention to provide the most memorable and world class experience for our veterans. While contacting some cutting friends and the NCHA to see if Ken could get some time in a practice pen, I began to share Ken's story and the mission of BraveHearts and was told, "we can do better than just the practice pen." Hence, the concept for the Shootout began. The goal of our partnership was further developed to fold in the youth with the veterans, in the hopes of helping young people understand the real sacrifice of veterans and service. The 2021 event was extremely well-received by the veteran participants, the trainers, the NYCHA and the NCHA community, helping garner further exposure and support for veterans. The community has come together again in 2022 to make this event possible.

Although the event will look a little different this year, the goals remain the same. First, to give veterans what they deserve – the VERY best. Secondly, to show our cutting community how horses and this sport heals veterans. Lastly, to knit together youth and veterans. We hope you enjoy each piece of this extraordinary experience.

A special "we miss you" to our dear friends Mr. Jeffrey Matthews and Mr. Victor Ayala. They were a huge part of last year's event and we will forever ride with them in our hearts. Both of these cowboys were a cut above, and certainly are here in spirit cheering today. To those who have gone before us, we share our prayers and honor - to C.J., Jeff, and Victor - *let's go cut!*

God bless to all reading this, our horses, and our great country.

Sincerely,



President/COO
BraveHearts





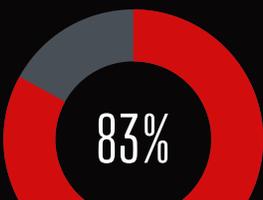
BraveHearts



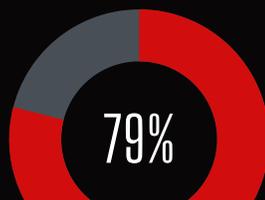
- MISSION -

BraveHearts brings hope, joy and unlimited possibilities through the healing power of the horse.

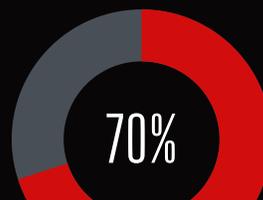
- HOW HORSES HELP VETERANS -



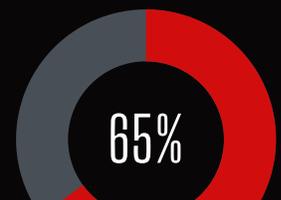
Experience reduced anxiety & increased confidence



Discover better mindfulness



Regain trust



Report a reduction in depression

BraveHearts is a 501c3 non-profit and a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) Premier Accredited Center with two full-time, year-round locations in Illinois serving children, adults and military veterans through equine-assisted services. **BraveHearts has the largest healing horsemanship program in the country for veterans**, serving all veterans and their family/caregivers at zero cost, since 2007. In 2021, BraveHearts served **799 veterans** with **9,265 hours** of equine-assisted sessions from **25 states** despite continuing to be limited with COVID-19 regulations. Through innovative opportunities, BraveHearts is able to accelerate veterans' horsemanship skills while combating residual effects from their military service, all while improving their mental health and wellness, developing a healthy recreational skill and providing community support.



Since joining forces with the NCHA to develop the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout in 2021, the momentum and excitement has continued to build since the team left the Watt Arena last year. This incredible opportunity has united 17 veterans from various military branches and a Gold Star Father, service eras, and ages from coast to coast alongside world-class and Hall of Fame trainers together raising the bar for innovative programming for veterans. We believe there is no greater gift we can give than to provide extraordinary horses and amazing opportunities to those who have served and protected our freedom.



- NYCHA BRAVEHEARTS SHOOTOUT AMBASSADORS -

Aden Bernhagen - Annie Kate White - Brea Collier - Brilee Unroe - Brinley Lippincott - Brooklyn Beveridge
Brynn Unroe - Caylee Shepard - Cash Ashlock - Cassie Cerny - Chance Cerny - Charli Snow - Cheyenne Lewis
Cody Cain - Cody Gann - Cooper Yates - Drew Sherrerd - Elle Martin - Emma Rapp - Evan Newton - Faith Farris
Gavin Mesalam - Greta Wurtz - Jayden Garrett - Jeffrey Carver - Jenna Bell - Lauren Nogueira - Lily Erwin
Logan Harlan - Makayla Cowan - Makena Newton - Makenzie Cowan - Mason Mefford - Mason Miller
Mattie Coberly - Mica Collins - Morgan Miller - Noah Foxworth - Preslie Green - Preston Cook - Reese Collins
Riley Farris - Robert Meyer - Sara Holler - Taylor Allen - Tristian Moschella - Tucker Harrison - Whitley Harrison
Will Bushaw - Will Erwin - Wyatt Lewis

Featured on the commemorative NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout 2021 sleeve and ballcaps the logo below is seen as we remember these two incredible individuals who are dearly missed from this year's event. Both played a tremendous role in the success of our inaugural event and it is our honor to keep their spirit alive this year.



JEFFREY MATTHEWS

June 5, 1955 - March 15, 2022

BraveHearts supporter and enthusiast, the late Jeffrey Matthews, of Matthews Cutting Horses, was raised in Warsaw, North Carolina and later made his home with his wife Sheri in Weatherford, Texas. Jeffrey was a lover of the outdoors, animals and farm life from a very early age. With the backdrop of his grandparents' gristmill operation during his early years- and later their pork and poultry business, Carroll Foods - Jeffrey enjoyed a strong exposure to farm operations, business management and relationships with a broad range of people that would afford him a meaningful perspective throughout his life.

Jeffrey's grandfather played a very influential role in his upbringing. Jeffrey often credited his values to his grandfather's example of integrity and "always putting yourself in the other man's shoes" approach to his relationships with people. His distinct love of animals was expressed most in his passion for horses. It was his grandfather who first facilitated Jeffrey's exposure to the Quarter Horse industry, and it wasn't long before he was pursuing and thriving in competition and working in this business.

Later on in his 20's, this passion led to a particular interest in the western performance horse, especially cow horses...and Jeffrey headed to the west coast where he had the opportunity to work with some of the most notable western horsemen of the era. Their influence left a lasting impression and played a significant role in shaping his horse training philosophy. He would often credit these early influencers with his belief in putting the well-being of the horse first and foremost.

Both Jeffrey and Sheri spent their lifetimes involved in western performance horses and this shared passion was manifested in many ways, including their support of BraveHearts. Both always believed strongly in the nurturing and healing power of the horse and Jeffrey especially wanted to support the potential for these gifts having an impact on veterans who had given much of their lives to our country.



VICTOR J. AYALA

August 28, 1983 - August 22, 2021

Enlisting in the Navy right after high school, Victor served as a H-60 rescue crewman from 2001-2006. Victor met the BraveHearts team for the first time in 2019 as he listened in on a presentation given by the team at a national conference, often interrupting with numerous questions on how he could get involved, and that he did! Victor rode with our Trail to Zero mission in Lexington, KY in 2020, participated in every virtual program BraveHearts offered, co-hosted our Got Your 6 Virtual Fundraiser, and joined us on-site at our farms in Northern Illinois for clinics which led to him to falling in love with the sport of cutting. Victor dreamed of becoming a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor and was beginning the steps towards this goal with BraveHearts' support. He exuded passion for others and would have been an incredible teacher. Victor knew how to be patient in the presence of any horse as he valued what all are able to teach. He lived life to the absolute fullest and would take every opportunity to share his faith, humor, and love of being our "West Coast" cowboy from Bakersfield, CA. The day after last year's NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout event, Victor was already on the phone asking, "So what's next?". The BraveHearts team truly wished there was a next with him as just a month later we lost our "West Coast". Deeply missed in every capacity, it is our hope to keep Victor's unmatched, positive spirit alive in every aspect of our lives.

Thank You!

VETERAN COMPETITOR SPONSORS



SPONSOR:

SADDLE SILK WORN BY SHOW HORSE IN HONOR OF:

Judy & Bill Carter	→	SPC William Fast – US Army (active)
Julie Clarke	→	Clarke Butte Ranch
Eva & Mark Gardiner	→	Gardiner Angus Ranch
Paul Hansma, Alannah & Scott Chartier	→	In Memory of Julie Hansma
Johnel & Frank Harrison*****	→	2LT John Henry Phelps - U.S. Army KIA
David House***	→	SGT Matthew Ward US Army (retired)
		Sherrerd Performance Horses
		Dr. Rolf & Marge Gunnar
Kelley & John Logan	→	For All Who Served
Ann & Ray Logan	→	Ray & Ann Logan
Barb Schulte**	→	Ayala's Angels & Barb's Besties
Matthews Cutting Horses, LLC	→	Jeffrey Matthews
Moore Cutting Horses	→	Oklahoma Steel and Wire
Ghostwood Bourbon	→	Ghostwood Bourbon
Stanford Ranch	→	Stanford Ranch

**Represents number of veterans sponsored*

Gardiner
ANGUS RANCH

EVENT SPONSORS

Angela Cochran

Texas Rec Land Real Estate
Austin Shepard Cutting Horses

Liz & Trey Bell

Bunkhouse Jewelry Designs
Cass Tatum Cutting Horses

Clay & Kelsey Johnson

Clay Johnson Cutting Horses

Cooper & Jesse Vandiver

PK Cutters

Eddie Flynn Cutting Horses

Eddie & Selina Flynn

Eisenbarth Performance Horses LLC

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Silver Spur Ranches

Lisa Long Bradshaw

Texas Farm Bureau

Trent Bailey

Jody Radomske

Venture Farms

VP Cutting Horses Ranch



CLARKE BUTTE RANCH
CUTTING HORSES



GHOSTWOOD



CLINIC HOSTS

Thank you **Bill & Michelle Cowan** for hosting BraveHearts veterans, along with trainers and NYCHA youth volunteers, at your incredible ranch last month. It was a tremendous opportunity to bring everyone together for the first time for a 2-day cutting clinic and we appreciate all you did to make it possible.



Thank you **Lindy Burch** for offering to assist organizing the BraveHearts veterans this past Sunday to allow them a chance to ride in the Watt Arena as they prepared for today's event.



Thank you to **Perks Ranch** for welcoming BraveHearts veterans and trainers to your property the past two days to squeeze in as much preparation for the event as possible. All your support in various capacities to make these clinics possible is so deeply appreciated.

SHOW HORSE OWNERS

confirmed at time of program print

Barb & Tom Schulte
Barney Ramsey
Bill Carter
Brett Woods
Chris Campbell
Dave & Stacie McDavid
Gavin Mesalam
Five Star Farms
Gary & Michelle Rickert
John McGraw
Oxbow Ranch
Perks Ranch
Tom Watson

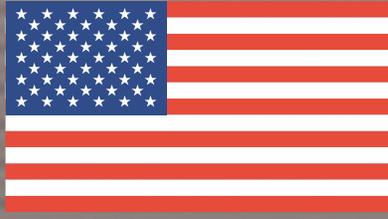
BRAVEHEARTS SPONSORS



CINCH

Greeley Hat Works, Inc.
Kimes Ranch
Meredith Birchfield Family Foundation
Sombrero Brands & The Hollar Family

Special thanks to Shane Hall, Pat Fasano, Tom Schulte, Barb Schulte, Lachlan Perks and Shannon Hall who participated in pre-recorded zoom calls to share with the veteran competitors reviewing concepts, terminology, rules, judging/scoring, appreciation of the cutting horse, and mental preparedness.



Meet the Trainers



Clint Allen
Scott Amos
Nathan Anderson
Lindy Burch
Cara Brewer
R.L. Chartier
Michael Cooper
Jody Galyean
Casey Green
Nate Gribble

Shannon Hall
Paul Hansma
Winston Hansma
Matt Miller
Bruce Morine
James Payne
Bill Riddle
Barb Schulte
Andy Sherrerd
Craig Thompson

We  you!

Veteran Competitors

listed in working order



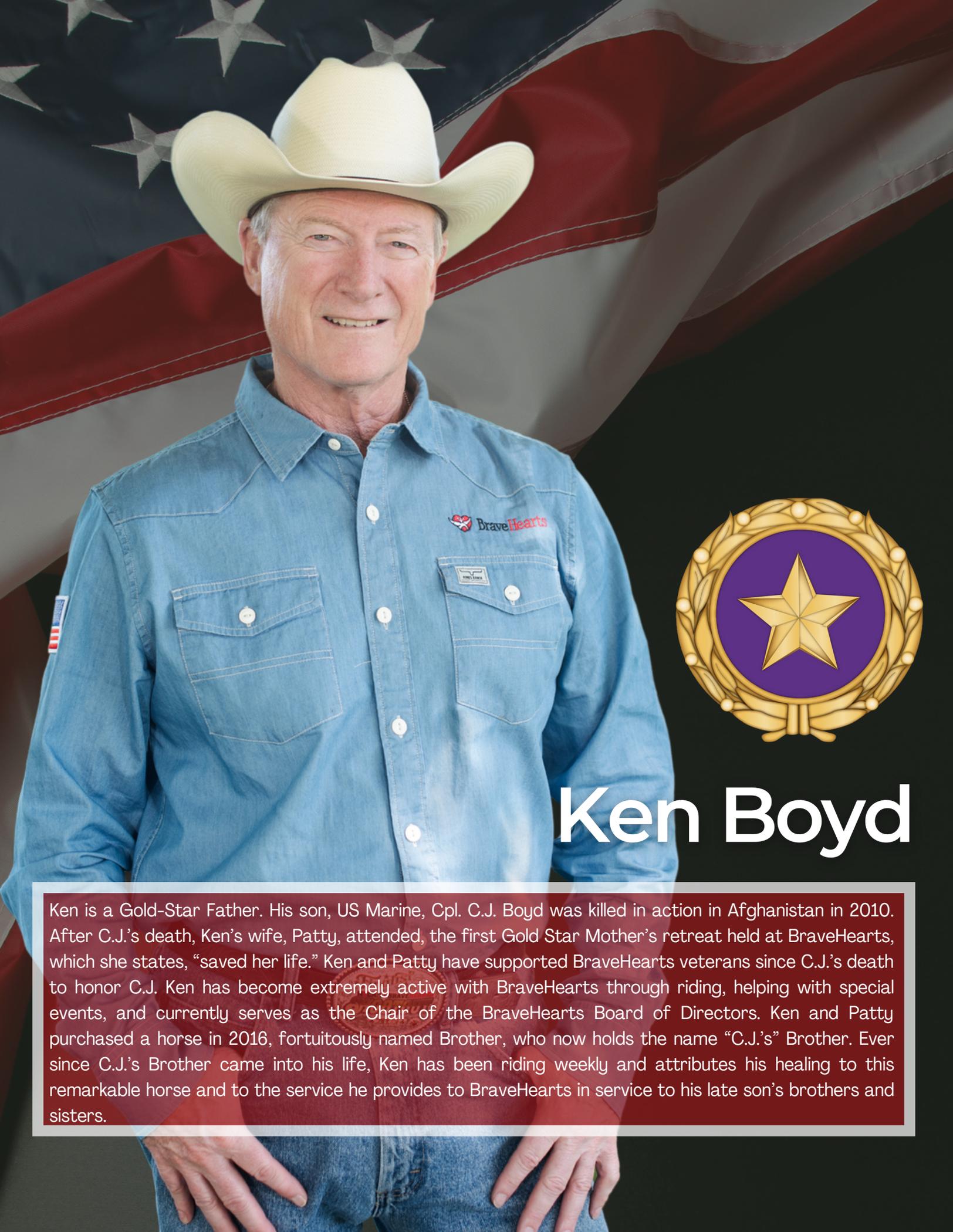
Angelica Ayala

Angelica joined the US Navy in 2003 just after graduating high school, following in her brother, Victor Ayala's footsteps. In February 2004, Angelica graduated from hospital Corpsman School and was stationed at Camp Lejeune. First stationed with II MEF GAS, Angelica was then transferred to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune where she worked in labor & delivery for 3 years. Being a corpsman started her career path of becoming a registered nurse. In 2018, Angelica was able to make her way back into the medical field as an RN. Angelica first heard about BraveHearts as her brother Victor was an active veteran participant. Following Victor's unfortunate passing in August 2021, Angelica became further connected with the BraveHearts family, riding with the team for the first time in Fort Wayne, IN for Trail to Zero. Getting back on a horse has brought peace into her heart. No words can describe the amount of tranquility she feels when she rides... like a weight has been lifted off her chest. It is very special to have another Ayala joining us this year as she rides to honor her brother.



Will Boelcke

Will holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics, a master's degree in educational research, and has worked in higher education for a number of years. He has been riding with BraveHearts for almost 4 years. With no prior knowledge of horses, Will quickly learned their gentleness can help to heal a broken mind. Will has struggled with his mental health and substance use for a number of years after serving in the military. While in treatment, he was introduced to BraveHearts and has stayed connected with the organization since. The relationship he has built with the horses, the staff, and fellow veterans at BraveHearts has had a significant impact on his recovery and continued success. As the 2021 inaugural NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout co-champion, Will is ready to defend his title and take home another win.



Ken Boyd

Ken is a Gold-Star Father. His son, US Marine, Cpl. C.J. Boyd was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010. After C.J.'s death, Ken's wife, Patty, attended, the first Gold Star Mother's retreat held at BraveHearts, which she states, "saved her life." Ken and Patty have supported BraveHearts veterans since C.J.'s death to honor C.J. Ken has become extremely active with BraveHearts through riding, helping with special events, and currently serves as the Chair of the BraveHearts Board of Directors. Ken and Patty purchased a horse in 2016, fortuitously named Brother, who now holds the name "C.J.'s" Brother. Ever since C.J.'s Brother came into his life, Ken has been riding weekly and attributes his healing to this remarkable horse and to the service he provides to BraveHearts in service to his late son's brothers and sisters.



Dana Severson

Dana is an Army Veteran who served 6 years active duty fixing Apache helicopters. She completed a tour in Korea and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. After her honorable discharge, she returned home to Illinois to pursue a business degree. A few short years after that, she was diagnosed with Leukemia. Dana considers herself blessed to receive a life-saving transplant from an unrelated donor and is now 14 years cancer free. For years, Dana has struggled with PTSD and the after effects of Iraq and her cancer diagnosis. Dana found BraveHearts in November of 2020 and started riding and volunteering with her teenage daughter. BraveHearts has been the support and the caring, compassionate camaraderie she has been looking for since leaving the military. Her riding background was mainly English, but she has come a long way with her western skills. As a member of both BraveHearts' Drill Teams, she credits her participation to furthering her horsemanship and has completed two Trail to Zero rides. Dana is excited for her first experience with the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout and with learning all there is about cutting.



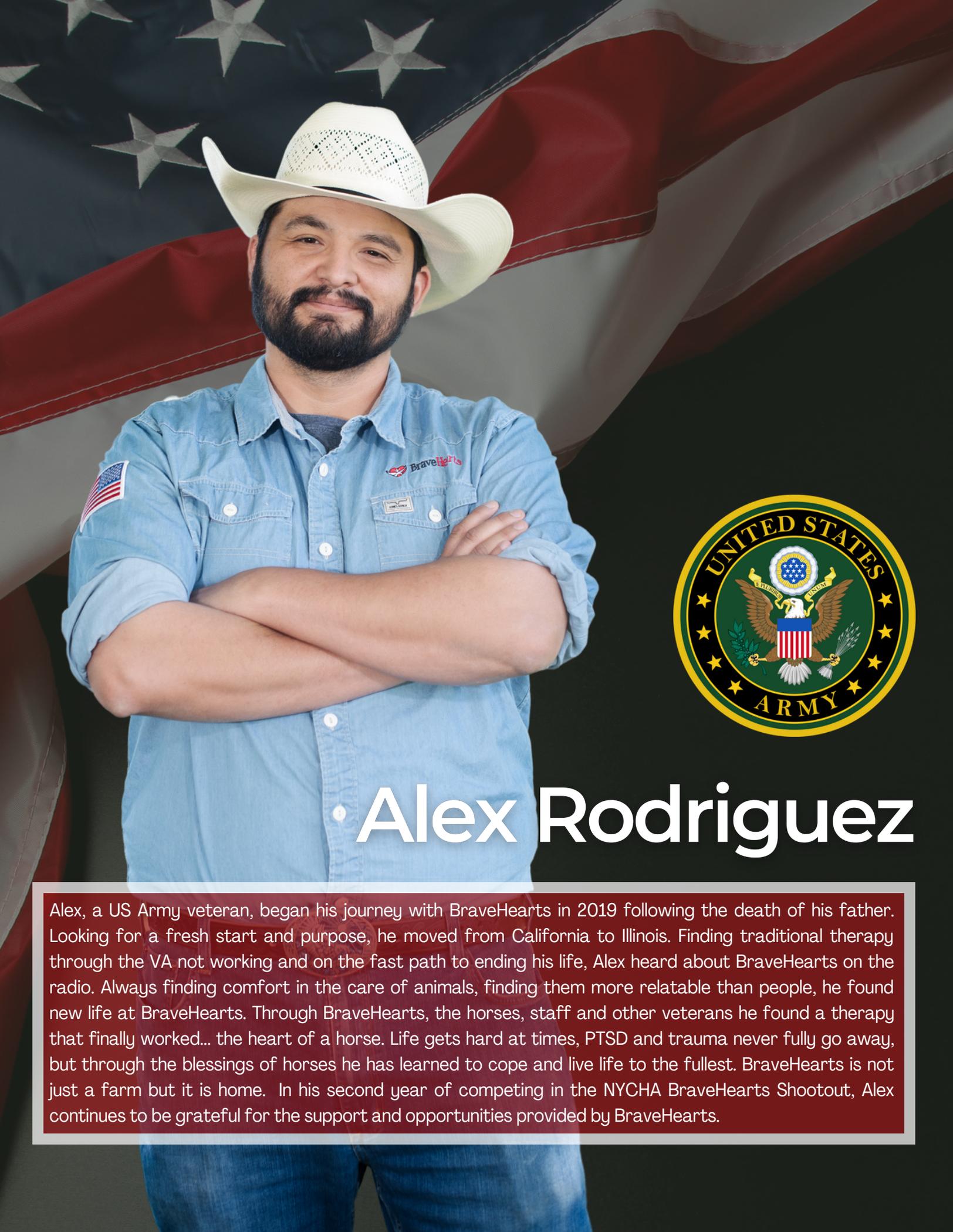
Kyle Farbman

Kyle Farbman, US Army, served from 2006-2016 as an Army Bandsman. Kyle was recruited out of college for his musicianship and went on to play in hundreds of funerals while serving in the military. Kyle sought out BraveHearts after a friend suggested to him that equine-assisted services may help his PTSD, which was onset from his experiences playing Taps in funerals for fallen comrades and MST. Kyle participated in weekly lessons from 2017 to 2019, and now lives with his wife and service dog, Ricky, on a farm in Lebanon, MO, where they are active teachers and performers of music and raise Jacobs Sheep. BraveHearts is one of the two places in the world for Kyle that bring him tranquility with the other being his farm. He is pursuing a degree in agriculture and is interested in becoming a PATH International certified therapeutic riding instructor. Working with horses has helped Kyle to be more in-tune with himself and has given him tools that translate into his life and healing each day. This is Kyle's first NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout.



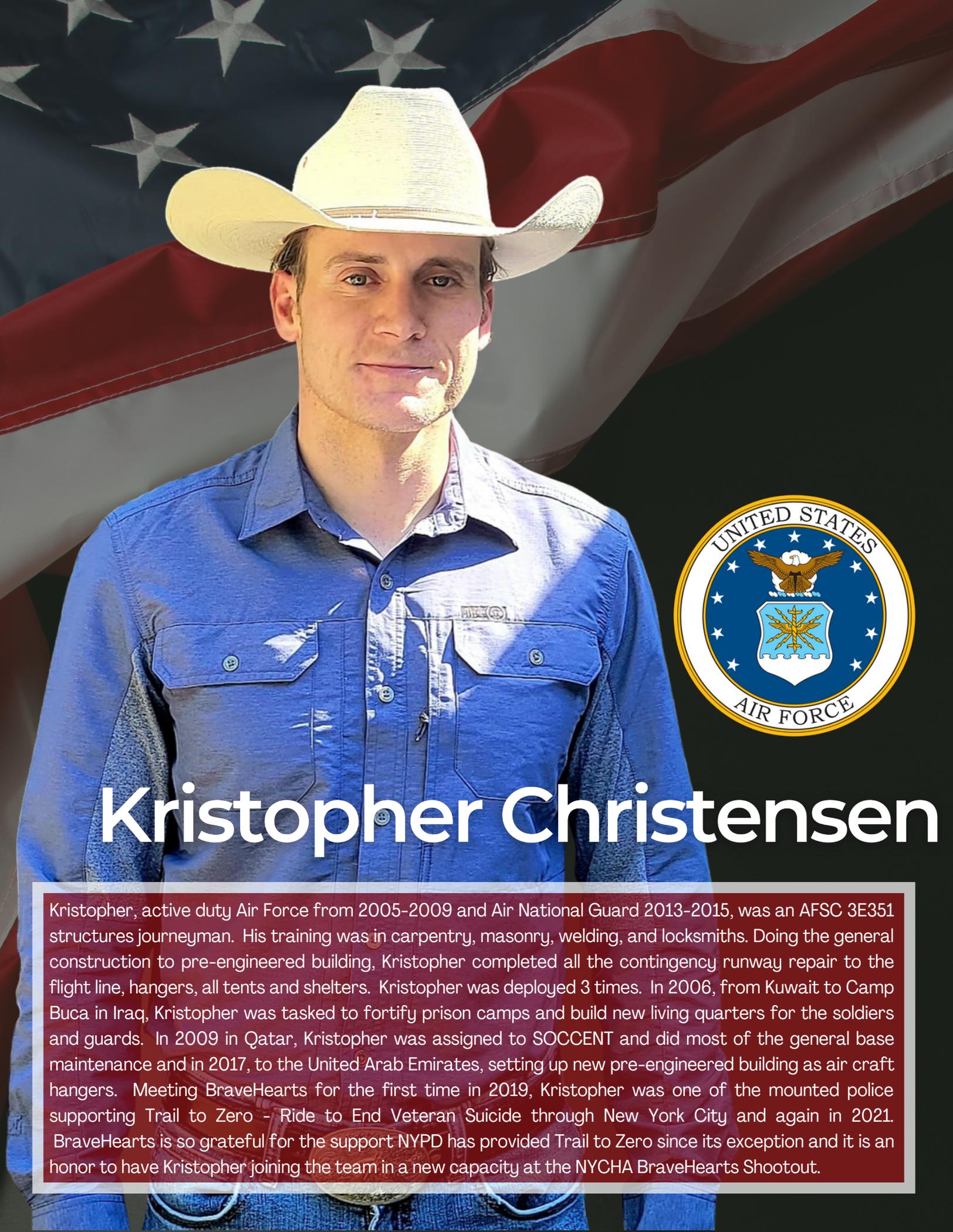
Juan Cabrales

Juan served from 2001-2009 as a Radio Operator for 2/24 out of Chicago. In 2003, Juan applied for the Chicago Police Department (CPD), but when he was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004/2005 this was put on hold. After returning from overseas he joined the CPD. In 2008, he began to ride horses and found his peace in doing so. In 2018, he was able to join the CPD Mounted Unit which has allowed him to ride almost daily. Juan was first introduced to BraveHearts in 2019 when he was on duty to escort their event, Trail to Zero, Ride to End Veteran Suicide, through the city of Chicago. Being able to escort Trail to Zero again in 2021, he is now excited to take his involvement with BraveHearts to a new level with the participation in the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout.



Alex Rodriguez

Alex, a US Army veteran, began his journey with BraveHearts in 2019 following the death of his father. Looking for a fresh start and purpose, he moved from California to Illinois. Finding traditional therapy through the VA not working and on the fast path to ending his life, Alex heard about BraveHearts on the radio. Always finding comfort in the care of animals, finding them more relatable than people, he found new life at BraveHearts. Through BraveHearts, the horses, staff and other veterans he found a therapy that finally worked... the heart of a horse. Life gets hard at times, PTSD and trauma never fully go away, but through the blessings of horses he has learned to cope and live life to the fullest. BraveHearts is not just a farm but it is home. In his second year of competing in the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout, Alex continues to be grateful for the support and opportunities provided by BraveHearts.



Kristopher Christensen

Kristopher, active duty Air Force from 2005-2009 and Air National Guard 2013-2015, was an AFSC 3E351 structures journeyman. His training was in carpentry, masonry, welding, and locksmiths. Doing the general construction to pre-engineered building, Kristopher completed all the contingency runway repair to the flight line, hangers, all tents and shelters. Kristopher was deployed 3 times. In 2006, from Kuwait to Camp Buca in Iraq, Kristopher was tasked to fortify prison camps and build new living quarters for the soldiers and guards. In 2009 in Qatar, Kristopher was assigned to SOCCENT and did most of the general base maintenance and in 2017, to the United Arab Emirates, setting up new pre-engineered building as air craft hangers. Meeting BraveHearts for the first time in 2019, Kristopher was one of the mounted police supporting Trail to Zero - Ride to End Veteran Suicide through New York City and again in 2021. BraveHearts is so grateful for the support NYPD has provided Trail to Zero since its inception and it is an honor to have Kristopher joining the team in a new capacity at the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout.



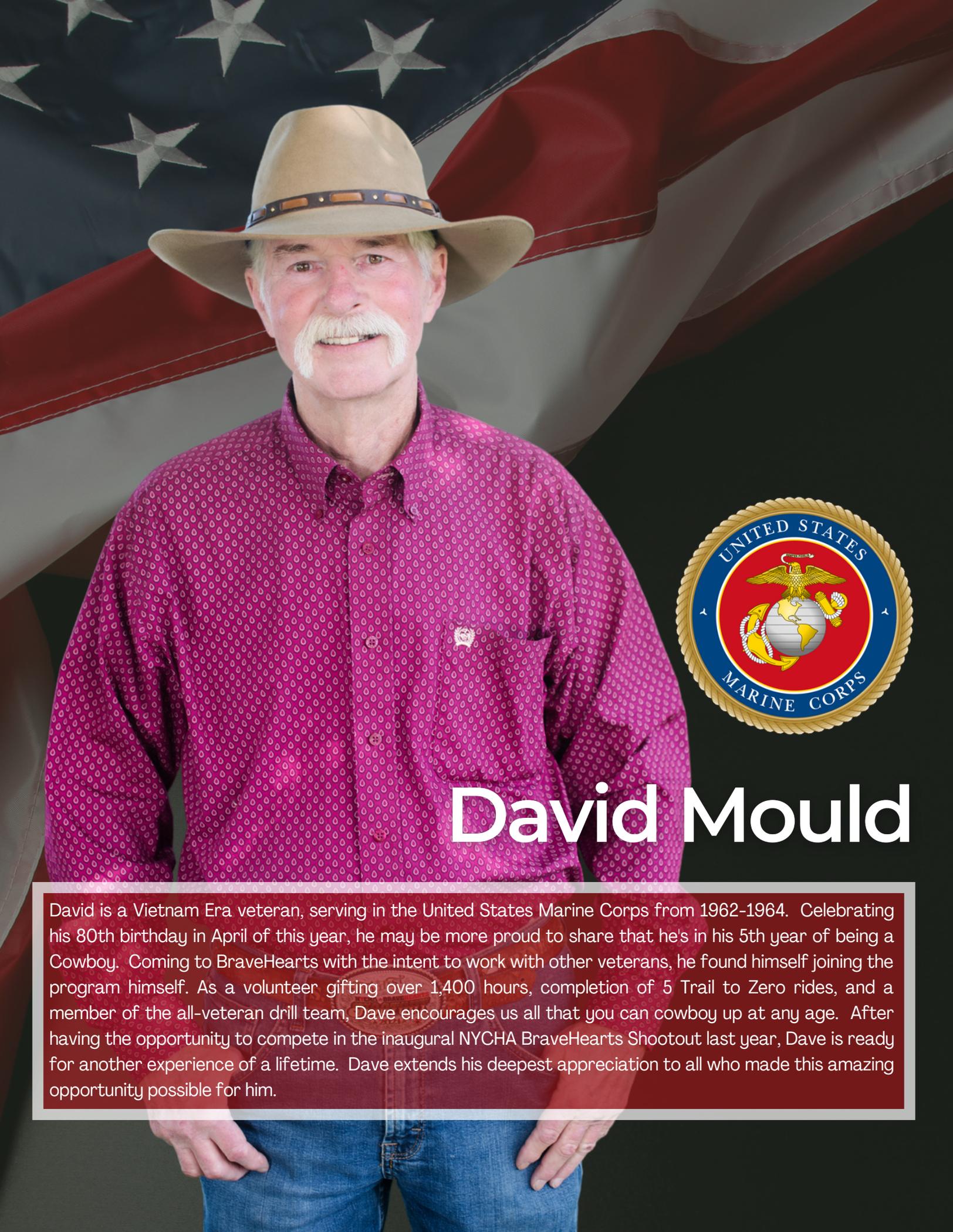
Sabrina Mesalam

Sabrina Mesalam joined the Navy after high school and went to aviation ATD school. She was stationed in the desert at NSWC where she was an Airman Striker. Last year, when the NYCHA partnered up with BraveHearts during the Summer Spectacular, she was given the chance to work with them and knew she wanted to be apart of the program. Since last year's event, Sabrina has carried a BraveHearts challenge coin in her pocket, gifted to her by fellow shipmate, Victor Ayala, who passed away shortly after the event. As an NCHA member, she has been around cutting for 14 years. As the cheerleader to her husband, daughter and son who show, she is looking forward for the chance for them to become hers. Sabrina has never been in the show pen, nor cut, but what better time then now with the greatest group of heroes. Being a Navy veteran, she is honored and humbled to ride alongside all of the featured veterans in the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout.



Kayla Tilly

Kayla served as a medic in the U.S. Army from 2012-2018 and recently received her BSN in nursing with a focus on mental health. Finding her way to BraveHearts in 2020, it quickly became her favorite place to be. She has been riding horses since she was 10 years old, so having the opportunity to participate in the veterans program has allowed her to accelerate her horsemanship while having a welcoming place to take a deep breath and de-stress. She is currently in the process of becoming a certified PATH Intl. instructor as well as volunteering all of her free time to the farms. Kayla intends to further her education and work as a mental health nurse practitioner while continuing to raise awareness for veteran suicide as well as the importance of mental health care. Competing in the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout for the second year, Kayla is looking forward to continuing to develop her horsemanship through the opportunities that BraveHearts has provided through cutting.



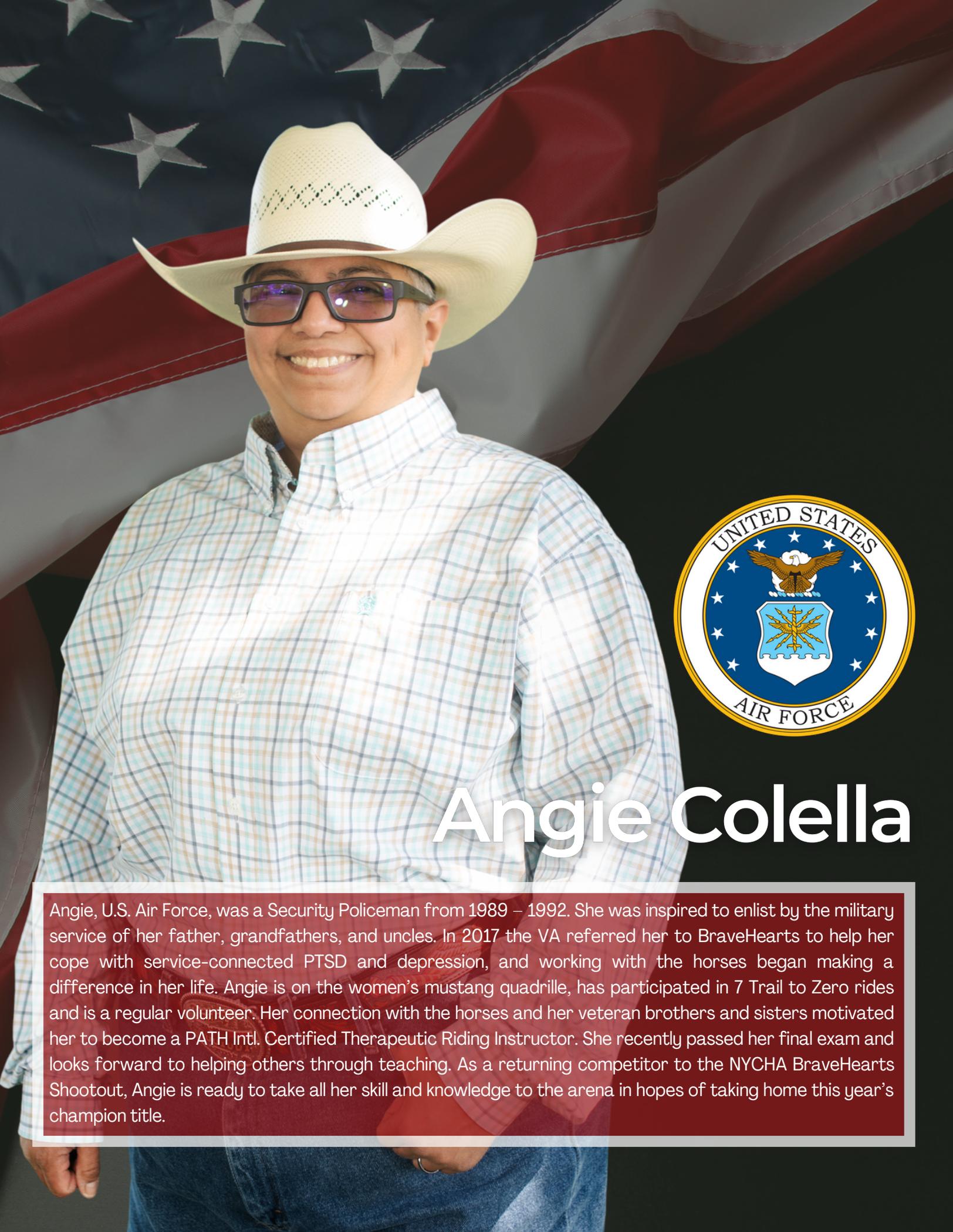
David Mould

David is a Vietnam Era veteran, serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1962-1964. Celebrating his 80th birthday in April of this year, he may be more proud to share that he's in his 5th year of being a Cowboy. Coming to BraveHearts with the intent to work with other veterans, he found himself joining the program himself. As a volunteer gifting over 1,400 hours, completion of 5 Trail to Zero rides, and a member of the all-veteran drill team, Dave encourages us all that you can cowboy up at any age. After having the opportunity to compete in the inaugural NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout last year, Dave is ready for another experience of a lifetime. Dave extends his deepest appreciation to all who made this amazing opportunity possible for him.



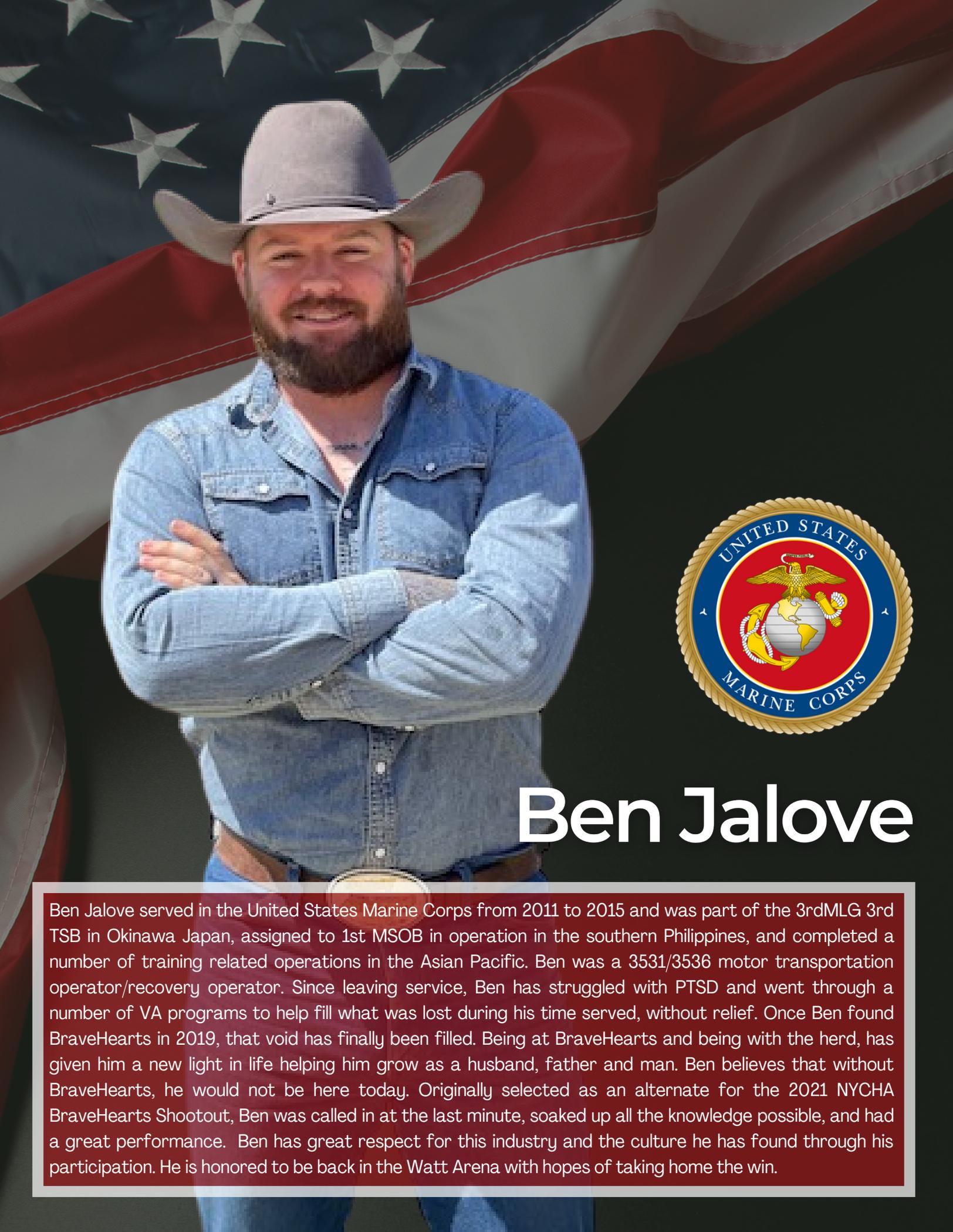
Ryan Ohrmundt

Sergeant Ryan Ohrmundt, U.S. Army Reserves, served from 2002 to 2010 as an engineer with the 961st Engineers from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Between 2006-2007, Ryan was attached to the 306 MP's from Uniondale New York and stationed at Abu Graib. Upon returning from deployment he finished his enlistment with the 372nd Engineers from Pewaukee, WI. While receiving treatment at the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee he learned about BraveHearts' dedication to unconventional and highly effective equine-assisted services to help people overcome and/or manage internal conflicts. With the combined help from the VA and BraveHearts, he later secured employment at the VA, joined BraveHearts' Drill Team, and went with them on the Trail to Zero rides in New York and Washington D.C. Ryan looks forward to advancing his skills by participating in the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout in order to heighten his ability to understand and benefit from everything horses have to offer.



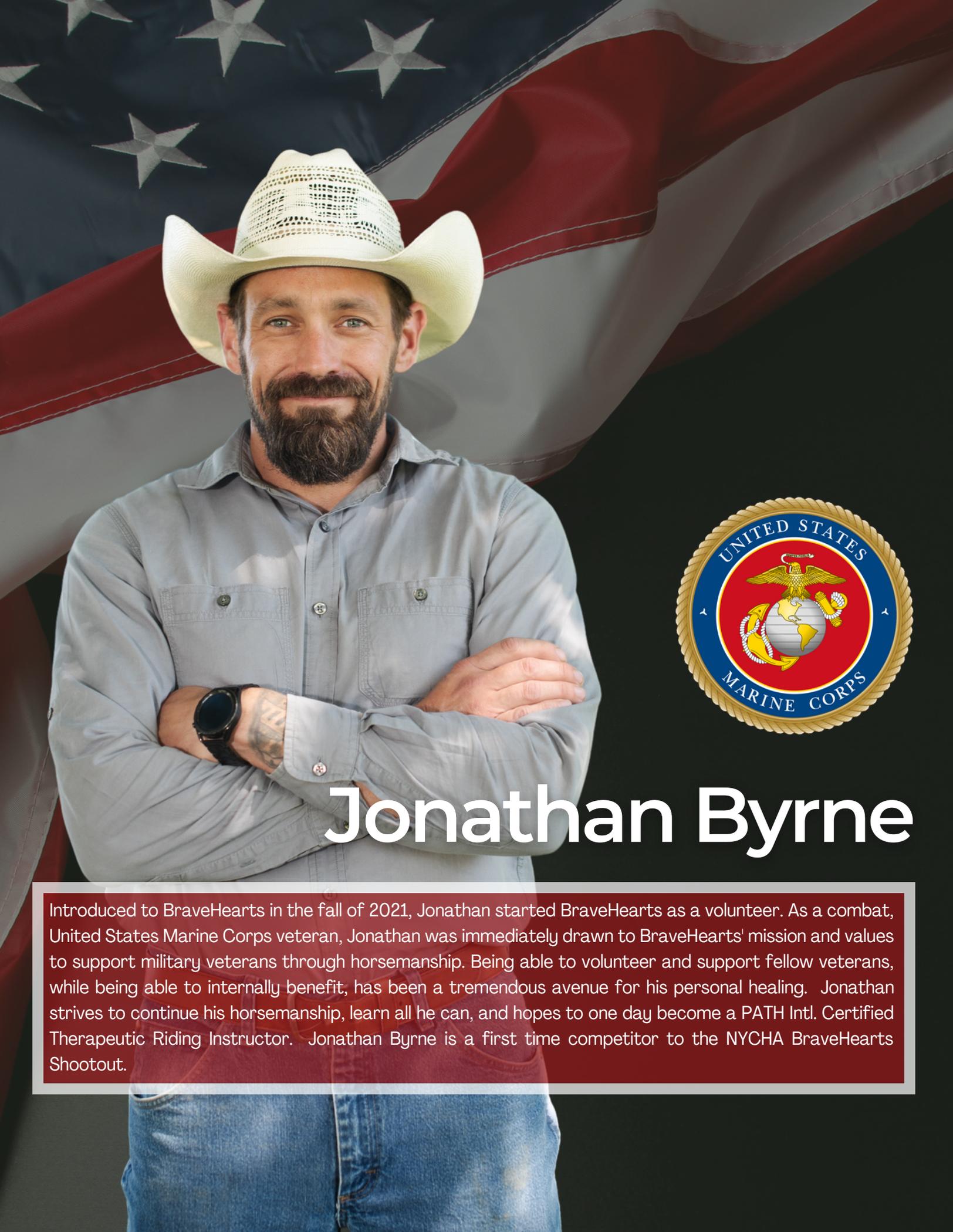
Angie Colella

Angie, U.S. Air Force, was a Security Policeman from 1989 – 1992. She was inspired to enlist by the military service of her father, grandfathers, and uncles. In 2017 the VA referred her to BraveHearts to help her cope with service-connected PTSD and depression, and working with the horses began making a difference in her life. Angie is on the women's mustang quadrille, has participated in 7 Trail to Zero rides and is a regular volunteer. Her connection with the horses and her veteran brothers and sisters motivated her to become a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor. She recently passed her final exam and looks forward to helping others through teaching. As a returning competitor to the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout, Angie is ready to take all her skill and knowledge to the arena in hopes of taking home this year's champion title.



Ben Jalove

Ben Jalove served in the United States Marine Corps from 2011 to 2015 and was part of the 3rdMLG 3rd TSB in Okinawa Japan, assigned to 1st MSOB in operation in the southern Philippines, and completed a number of training related operations in the Asian Pacific. Ben was a 3531/3536 motor transportation operator/recovery operator. Since leaving service, Ben has struggled with PTSD and went through a number of VA programs to help fill what was lost during his time served, without relief. Once Ben found BraveHearts in 2019, that void has finally been filled. Being at BraveHearts and being with the herd, has given him a new light in life helping him grow as a husband, father and man. Ben believes that without BraveHearts, he would not be here today. Originally selected as an alternate for the 2021 NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout, Ben was called in at the last minute, soaked up all the knowledge possible, and had a great performance. Ben has great respect for this industry and the culture he has found through his participation. He is honored to be back in the Watt Arena with hopes of taking home the win.



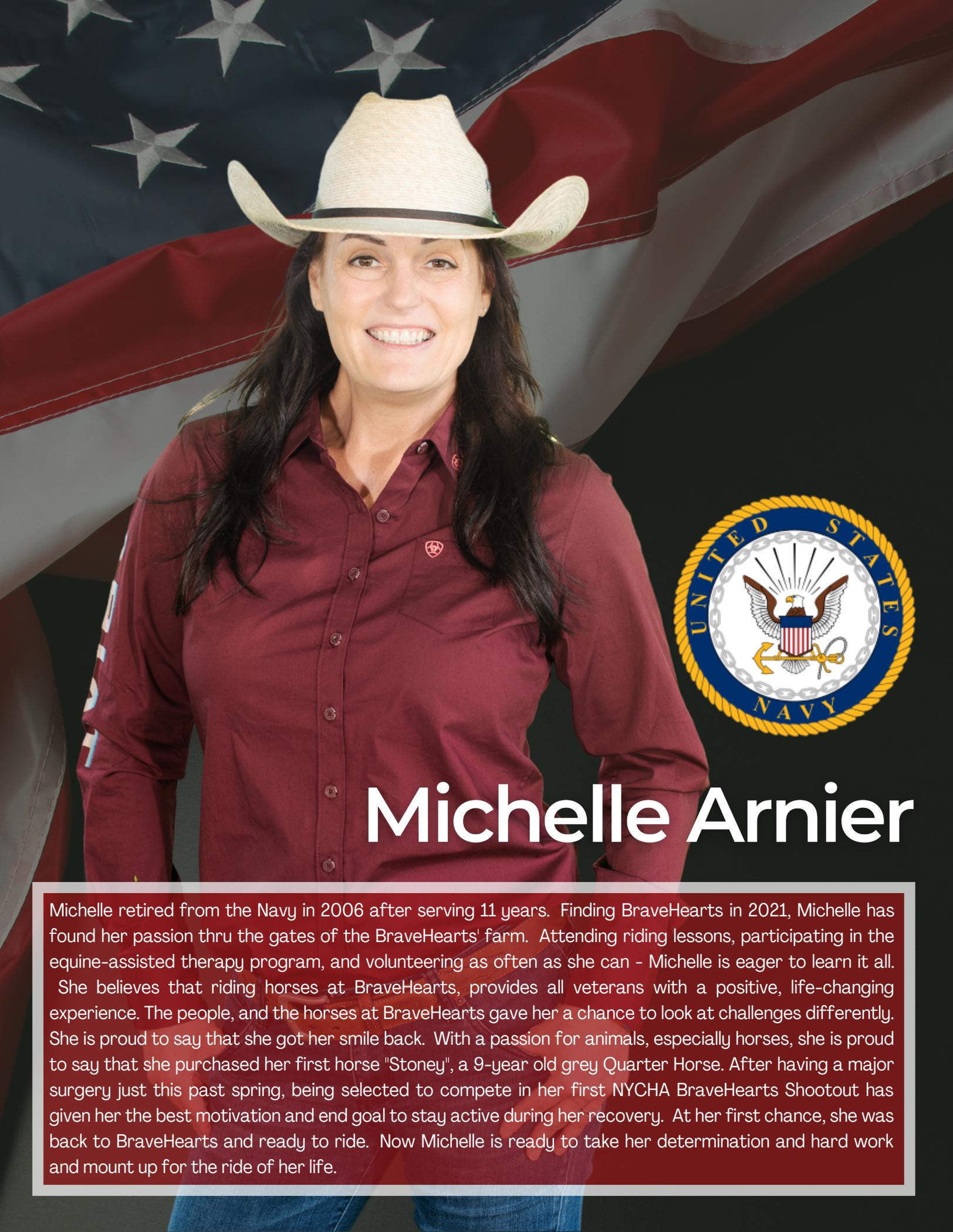
Jonathan Byrne

Introduced to BraveHearts in the fall of 2021, Jonathan started BraveHearts as a volunteer. As a combat, United States Marine Corps veteran, Jonathan was immediately drawn to BraveHearts' mission and values to support military veterans through horsemanship. Being able to volunteer and support fellow veterans, while being able to internally benefit, has been a tremendous avenue for his personal healing. Jonathan strives to continue his horsemanship, learn all he can, and hopes to one day become a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor. Jonathan Byrne is a first time competitor to the NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout.



Fred 'Cowboy' Busby

Corporal Fred Busby, US Marine Corps, served from 1980-1983 active duty military police and 1984-1986 active Marine reserve as a military police officer. Following his discharge, Fred continued his law enforcement career for 28 ½ years. Fred, or Cowboy, as his friends call him, has been participating with BraveHearts since 2015. The first time Cowboy came to BraveHearts he was meeting with BraveHearts staff, as a representative of his motorcycle club with a fellow veteran to become a potential sponsor to help BraveHearts veterans. His visit was not intended to work with the mustangs but after being captivated by their presence, he stepped into the round pen — a moment that changed his life. Since that moment, which he describes as a spiritual moment, Cowboy has been passionate about horses and equine-assisted services. He is just one of the many veterans who enter the barn not knowing much about horses but are led to a newfound passion and purpose because of them. Cowboy was a last minute contender added to the 2021 NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout and is ready to be back at it in the Watt Arena!



Michelle Arnier

Michelle retired from the Navy in 2006 after serving 11 years. Finding BraveHearts in 2021, Michelle has found her passion thru the gates of the BraveHearts' farm. Attending riding lessons, participating in the equine-assisted therapy program, and volunteering as often as she can - Michelle is eager to learn it all.

She believes that riding horses at BraveHearts, provides all veterans with a positive, life-changing experience. The people, and the horses at BraveHearts gave her a chance to look at challenges differently. She is proud to say that she got her smile back. With a passion for animals, especially horses, she is proud to say that she purchased her first horse "Stoney", a 9-year old grey Quarter Horse. After having a major surgery just this past spring, being selected to compete in her first NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout has given her the best motivation and end goal to stay active during her recovery. At her first chance, she was back to BraveHearts and ready to ride. Now Michelle is ready to take her determination and hard work and mount up for the ride of her life.



Amanda Bethards

Amanda joined the Navy after graduating high school. She always knew she wanted to help people and being a Corpsman gave her that opportunity. While working in the medical field, almost 14 years later, Amanda and her family were introduced to BraveHearts in 2017. She is forever grateful for the introduction to such a life-changing organization. Amanda is continuing to learn how to manage her stress and anxiety more and more each and every day with the guidance of the amazing therapy horses, BraveHearts team, and her fellow brother and sisters. She is at the final stage of completing her PATH Intl. certified therapeutic riding instructor certification with the help and mentorship of the BraveHearts team. Last summer, Amanda took her involvement to the next level by taking on the role of BraveHearts' Volunteer Coordinator, orchestrating over 400 volunteers with about 23,000 hours in a year. Amanda rode her heart out at last year's NYCHA BraveHearts Shootout taking her to the top of the leaderboard and being awarded co-champion of the inaugural event.

BraveHearts Therapy Horses

Boomer was born and raised on a ranch and has had great experience working with cattle. He started his career as a therapy horse just last year and quickly became a favorite horse for our riders. Since coming to BraveHearts following last year's Shootout, Boomer has not only supported on-site lessons, but has traveled across the country with confidence & pride with veteran events.

C.J.'s Brother, once a working cattle horse from a great ranch in Oklahoma, came to BraveHearts in 2016. C.J.'s Brother is named in honor of marine Cpl. Christopher J. Boyd who was killed in action in 2010 while serving in Afghanistan. C.J.'s Brother is here to support Gold Star Father, Ken Boyd, and the other veteran competitors ride with courage and a full heart.

Gunnar hails from East Texas and came to BraveHearts in 2020 to begin his work as a therapy horse. A very special horse named after BraveHearts' founders Dr. Rolf and Marge Gunnar, he has truly lived up to honoring such wonderful people. Gunnar is a go to horse welcoming all levels of riders. Last year, Gunnar provided 468 service hours with great strength & care.

BREED: AQHA

COLOR: RED ROAN

BIRTH YEAR: 2011

OF SHOOTOUTS: 2021 + 2022

BREED: AQHA

COLOR: RED ROAN

BIRTH YEAR: 2011

OF SHOOTOUTS: 2022

BREED: AQHA

COLOR: DARK BAY

BIRTH YEAR: 2005

OF SHOOTOUTS: 2021 + 2022



Boomer

Donated to BraveHearts by
Frank & Johnel Harrison



C.J.'s Brother

Raised by Hall Family Ranch
Owned by Ken Boyd



Gunnar

Turnback Team

Moses was gifted to BraveHearts in 2021 by a dear friend to honor all the veterans for what they gave. Named after a tank driver who served in Afghanistan who was nicknamed by his unit "Moses" as he could part the sea of anything and lead with great bravery even during strife, our Moses is a true embodiment of this character and is on his way to helping many.

"Pud Em Up" was born in cutting horse royalty as the son of Dual Pep out of the great Smart Little Lena daughter, Smart Pudden. Pud is one of the last greats to wear the Bar H brand. To say we are grateful for Pud is an understatement. A true blessing, Pud has stepped into his role as a therapy horse with the greatest of grace and understanding.

ThatGuy came to BraveHearts at the end of 2021 from a big ranch in Texas. With his exceptional lineage and versatile background, ThatGuy has thrived in his role as a therapy horse. His patience, trust, and willingness to try for every rider makes ThatGuy, the guy, for many. Even being one of the newer therapy horses at BraveHearts, ThatGuy is a #1 pick.

BREED: AQHA

COLOR: FLEA-BIT GREY

BIRTH YEAR: 2009

OF SHOOTOUTS: 2022

BREED: AQHA

COLOR: BAY

BIRTH YEAR: 2005

OF SHOOTOUTS: 2022

BREED: AQHA

COLOR: BAY

BIRTH YEAR: 2016

OF SHOOTOUTS: 2022



Moses

Donated to BraveHearts by
David House

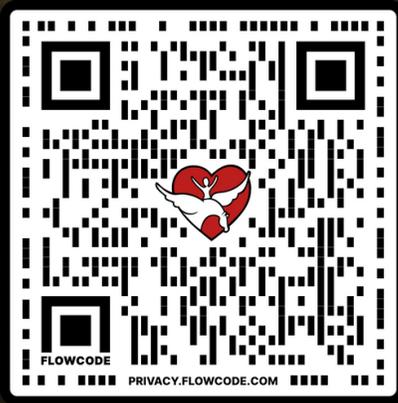


Pud

Donated to BraveHearts by
Paul Hansma



ThatGuy



To donate to support BraveHearts services or to get involved in programming opportunities, please visit:

braveheartsridding.org

SEE WHERE BRAVEHEARTS IS HEADED NEXT...

TRAIL TO ZERO

Since 2017, BraveHearts' Trail to Zero has been riding to show how the healing power of horses are used to combat veteran suicide. Veterans mount up and ride 20 miles in cities across the country for the 20 veterans/active service members lost to suicide **every day.**

ABOUT OUR RIDES

- In a single day, BraveHearts veterans and therapy horses ride 20 miles in major cities across the country
- These veterans credit horses to saving their life
- Our team escorted by mounted patrols
- All to raise awareness & prevention efforts for veteran suicide

THE MISSION CONTINUES

★ NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

◦ 10.01.2022

★ ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

◦ 10.29.2022

#TTZ #TRAILTOZERO

With many participating veterans enlisting following 9/11, our ride in NYC is extra special. The NYC route begins in Central Park, riding through Time Square to Ground Zero, then returning to Central Park. Below pictures the team as they ride toward the One World Trade Center.



braveheartsridding.org