

# Monthly Newsletter



## Message from our Founder

This is the first of many future bulletins to keep you informed of the efforts at NXTStep Vets. We will be keeping our sponsors and supporters updated on our happenings.

My journey to now started with my transition from service in 2004. Some of you have been a part of my journey through now. With the help of NXTStep vets and all of its supporters, we can help other veterans whom have not had the opportunity to thrive as others have had.

I look forward to the amazing things we can all do together!

Chris "Gonzo" Gonzalez

## Where we are Today

### Founded June 2024

Things have been Full Speed ahead since being founded in June 2024. Our Board was created, our 501(c)3 was accepted and we have started our first couple fundraisers! All this in just 4 months..

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### Meet the Board

Our Board is comprised of mentors across the 4 pillars of success. You can meet the board at <https://nxtstepvets.org/about-us/>.

With the help of these mentors, we will create a team that ensure veterans thrive.

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### What we are working on

With the first retreat scheduled for April 2025, we are prepping our curriculum as we also engage with current veterans that are struggling. Check out some of our current veterans working with NXTStep Vets.

## Get involved

email [gonzo@nxtstepvets.org](mailto:gonzo@nxtstepvets.org)

# How You help NXTStep Grow

Mentors, Mentors and did I mention Mentors? Adding more volunteer mentors to our network is crucial. A retreat can help a veteran identify his purpose but a mentor can help that veteran develop that purpose. A preferred mentor would be a veteran whom has transitioned into the civilian world and having developed his/ her career. If you or anyone you know would like to be a mentor, please email [gonzo@nxtstepvets.org](mailto:gonzo@nxtstepvets.org)



## Fundraising News

NXTStepo Vets will be holding Quarterly Gun raffles. You can visit [nxtstepvets.org](http://nxtstepvets.org) and go to our shop or donate section to see our current raffle and purchase tickets!

## Paul Koch, Navy Veteran

Paul is a Navy Veteran from 1993–1997. During that time he was aboard the USS Enterprise as a hydraulic mechanic. After transitioning from the Military, he continued his trade in hydraulic repair for a large company. After 17 years working for that company he did not feel like it was the atmosphere for him. After 3 years trying to find a company with a culture that was a fit for him, he found it, that company closed their doors. This left Paul in financial distress including losing his home and purpose.

Fast Forward to today, after a call from VA Social Services, NXTStep Vets was called in to assist the veteran. I am pleased to say that Paul is now employed and living in a temporary hotel paid by NXTStep Vets and driving a car donated by NXTStep Vets.

Paul is looking forward to continued mentorship in his career, finances and personal struggles.

We look forward to maybe seeing Paul as a mentor!

# SIG SAUER His and Hers P365

Purchase Tickets for the SIG Sauer His and Hers P365 set. Only 250 tickets will be sold. You can purchase online at [nxtstepvets.org](http://nxtstepvets.org) and check out the store. All proceeds benefit NXTStep Vets. Drawing will be held Dec 17th 2024



Scan for Tyler



## Shawn Reese Army Combat Veteran

When you meet SGT Michael S Reese, he has a laugh and smile that is contagious. Through conversations with him you know that he has a huge heart with a turmoiled past. SGT (Shawn) Reese was an Infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division fighting "Bastogne" Regiment from 2001-2007. Hvaing served 3 deployments to Iraq, Shawn had experienced loss and devastation that no American should.

After departing the Army in 2007, Shawn tried to engage the workforce but had trouble adapting. In 2008, the VA placed him on Temporary unemployability. 17 years later, he is still on "temporary" unemployability. He made his children his purpose and now that his children are grown, it put him in a difficult mental spot.

Shawn is our first Alumni with NXTStep Vets. Shawn is currently going from VFW to VFW looking for ways to improve Branch Hill Post 5354. Shawn is currently on a long path to ensure he strives. NXTStep Vets will be here for him along his journey. You will probably meet Shawn at any of our NXTStep events!

## VET Golf Classic

Mark your calendars! June 5th and 6th will be the Veteran Engagement Tournament Golf Outing. You will be able to stay uip to date at [vfw5354.org](http://vfw5354.org)

# Donation Efforts

- \*Final Mile Golf Classic- \$8,500
- \*CVMA OH12-2 - \$2,000
- \*VFW Post 5354 -\$1,000
- \*Gun Raffle -\$600+ and going

## Expenses

NXTStep Vets is scheduled to hold 4 retreats in 2025. At a cost of approximately \$5,500 per retreat, we need a minimum yearly operating cost of \$22,000 per year. Even though we have accomplished half that budget, we have been busy assisting veterans get back on their feet.

Recently we have helped one of our Alumni with attorney costs to help get his life back on track. We have also donated a car and 2 weeks housing for a veteran.

If you would like to be a NXTStep Vets Sponsor, you can purchase a Gold or Bronze level sponsorship at [nxtstepvets.org](http://nxtstepvets.org). You can also help out by buying raffle tickets for our gun drawing. We will hold a new drawing every 3 months.

In 2025 we will be distributing our financials to our donors so they know how their money is being spent to help veterans.

## Mentorship

If you would like to become a mentor for NXTStep Vets, please email [gonzo@nxtstepvets.org](mailto:gonzo@nxtstepvets.org). Mentors are one of the most powerful tools that we have to help our veterans.



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