



# THE HOOSIER VETERAN

ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2021

[in.gov/dva](http://in.gov/dva)



**Marine Corps Birthday Nov. 10**  
**Veterans Day Nov. 11**

## WELCOME!

BY JOE DEVITO

Happy Thanksgiving! This month we have so much to be grateful for. Our Indiana Veterans Center is in full swing - filled with Veteran services and resources. Stop by and see us today! We also celebrate Veterans Day with many events around the state. Check out our calendar for one near you. With the many exciting events and gatherings, we urge our Indiana Veteran community to stay safe and thankful to our veterans and service members. The team at the IDVA remains committed to making Indiana the best place for all Indiana Veterans to Live, Work and Thrive! We welcome contributions and feedback to [outreach@dva.in.gov](mailto:outreach@dva.in.gov).

THE HOOSIER VETERAN  
NEWSLETTER

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# Andre Beasley: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

## by Kara Kavensky

This year, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the interment ceremony of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. That soldier was a Veteran of WWI. Also entombed is a veteran of WWII and the Korean War.

The guards for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are based out of Ft. Myer Army base in Virginia and is home to the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as The Old Guard. The Old Guard is the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the Army, serving our nation since 1784. Former sergeant, Andre Beasley, is one of the sentinels who served at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with Badge #502. There have been less than 700 badges awarded to Tomb guards, making this an elite fraternity within The Old Guard.



Photo credit: Sterling Alexander

There are several specialty platoons serving with The Old Guard, which includes: Caisson Platoon, Continental Color Guard, Fife and Drum Corps, Presidential Salute Battery, the U.S. Army Drill Team, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Selection for The Old Guard is a high honor. Tomb Guards are handpicked, rigorously trained, and serve with privilege as part of an unbroken chain of Soldiers dating back to March 25, 1926. Andre L. Beasley, Sr. is one of these soldiers. His route to The Old Guard was not a clear path. Andre grew up in Ft. Wayne and after graduating from Wayne High School, he realized that he needed a reset.



Photo credit: Sterling Alexander

“My life was not heading in a productive direction,” states Andre, who recently spoke to the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. “The Army provided me with the discipline that I was needing in my life.”

Initially, Andre was going to become an Army Ranger and Airborne, then the topic of The Old Guard came up. Andre agreed if and only if he could guard The Tomb.

“There’s something very special about the Tomb of the Unknowns, states Andre, who served in the Army for six years with the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment.

**“It is hallowed ground and we set the gold standard for discipline and the pinnacle for dress code.”**

The guards of the Tomb of the Unknown are meticulous in detail, inspections within their regimen are notoriously the toughest. The attention to detail is by design. They are guarding a sacred Tomb of four unknown soldiers, and represent the reverence, patriotism, and respect that families find comforting when they visit The Tomb, especially when they have lost a family member and wish to pay their respects. Strong bonds are formed through the extremely demanding and humbling experience of guarding The Tomb of the Unknown.





Photo contributed by Ron L. Jackson

“Those men enshrined at The Tomb represent every lost loved one who has made the ultimate sacrifice. That’s why we do what we do — we don’t want to forget,” says Andre, who served as a guard for three years during his six spent in active duty.

**“The general public should understand this price of freedom. It’s important to speak with your children, and their children.”**

After serving with The Old Guard at The Tomb for three years, Andre was deployed to Iraq for Operation: Iraqi Freedom 3. After serving our country for six years, Andre returned home to Ft. Wayne, where he lives with his family.

Andre is an Instructional Designer for Purdue University and is the founder and CEO of Academic Success Guide, an organization that provide tutors and instructional designers to schools. To date they have served over 250+ students in Allen County. Andre holds two masters degrees, one MBA in sustainability and another in education. In addition, years after being honorably discharged from the Army, Andre's new mission is educating the public on The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**“Today, patriotism is associated with a political party  
but we are a diverse people who  
fight for our freedom”**

says Andre, who joined The Society for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 2018. The Society is a nonprofit organization run by former Tomb guards. “What I appreciated most is that those individuals who are enshrined were just like me, only they didn't make it home. Their families didn't get to see them one last time, but The Tomb is a place where families can come and reflect and have peace. We [as guards] need be that symbol of respect to those who lost loved ones.”



Photo credit: Sterling Alexander



OPERATION ALPHA IS BACK! Join us for Signature cocktails from Hotel Tango, a traditional, military-inspired Grog Bowl Ceremony, cigar with the CEO on the veranda, whisk(e)y pull, cigar pull & wine toss, and more! Tickets at hvaf.org/events.

November 5  
6 to 10 p.m.

Biltwell Event Center  
950 S. White River Parkway W. Drive, Indianapolis



## Welcome Home: An Exhibition Honoring Veterans



Nov. 11 to Dec. 30  
Anderson Museum of Art  
32 WEST 10TH STREET  
ANDERSON, IN



IDVA Events Calendar: [Click Here](#)



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# PUNCH FOR VETERANS BOXING CLINIC

**PUNCH FOR VETERANS  
BOXING CLINICS**

For disabled veterans or civilians with a disability

Saturdays  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Mike Ford Fitness  
2326 E 44th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

\$5 Per class  
FREE for disabled veterans

SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER  
OR FOR  
MORE INFO

Or go to: <https://rhpunchforveterans.eventbrite.com>

## Howard County Veterans Stand Down

### Event Details

**Where:** UAW 685 Hall

929 E. Hoffer St., Kokomo, IN 46902

**When:** Nov. 10

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

**Event time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**SATURDAYS 9 TO 10 A.M.**

## 2021 Hamilton County Veterans Stand Down

### Event Details

**Where:** The Boys and Girls Club of Noblesville  
1700 Conner St. Noblesville, IN 46060

**When:** Nov. 12

**Time:** 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Writing in Peace, a program of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library in partnership with Turkey Run State Park, is a creative writing workshop for veterans. This is a monthly workshop. Sign up by emailing to [info@vonnegutlibrary.org](mailto:info@vonnegutlibrary.org) indicating which dates you would like to attend. Visit the [Vonnegut Library](http://VonnegutLibrary) website for more information.





# TEE UP FOR VETERANS

Mark your calendar now for **4 p.m., Thursday, November 18, 2021** at Topgolf in Fishers. Dollars raised will support reduced YMCA membership fees for Veterans, military members and their families.

SILVER SPONSORS:



November 18  
Begins at 4 p.m.  
Topgolf Fishers

Special Guest Speaker: Director of  
Indiana Department of Veterans  
Affairs, Dennis Wimer



# ROLL CALL!



1415 North Gate Road  
Madison, IN 47250

The Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery is open for visitors. Please follow all COVID-19 guidelines:

- Wear a mask in all buildings.
- Maintain 6 feet social space.

We understand and appreciate your contribution to keeping everyone safe to enjoy their visit.

Click [HERE](#) to see the webpage.



## Indiana Veterans Home News

INDIANA VETERANS HOME  
VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

**Keynote Speaker,**

**Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Snyder**

**NOVEMBER 11 AT 10:00 AM**

**3851 N. RIVER RD. WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47906**

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*Socially*



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