



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2023

NVMM Partners with Best Medicine Brigade to Launch Search for America's Funniest Veterans and Military Spouses on April 1!

*Tickets Now Available for Operation HEAL*ARIOUS, a Night of Comedy*

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum is excited to host Operation HEAL*ARIOUS, brought to you by Best Medicine Brigade, on Saturday, April 1. This “American Idol” – style showcase kicks off the search for America’s next great Veteran or military spouse comedian. The NVMM will be the first of five tour stops in the first season, followed by Arlington, Virginia (May 4); Tacoma, Washington (June 4); San Antonio, Texas (July 15); and Fayetteville, North Carolina (July 29); with a November 4 finale in Hollywood, California.

Join us at the museum to cheer on your favorite comedians and propel them to the next round! During Operation HEAL*ARIOUS, attendees will also enjoy the comedy of established comedians including: Ashley Gutermuth, U.S. Air Force spouse; Doug Bennett, U.S Marine Corps Veteran; and event host, Stan Shelby, U.S. Navy Veteran.

[Tickets](#) for Operation HEAL*ARIOUS are now on sale at NationalVMM.org. VIP tickets are \$50 and include: Pre-show reception with early entry at 6:30 p.m., preferred seating, one drink ticket and post-show meet-and-greet with the performers and judges. General admission tickets are \$30, and \$20 tickets are available for Veterans and active-duty military personnel. Doors open for general admission at 7 p.m. and the laughs begin at 8 p.m.

Stand-up Comedy Contestants

- Chris Cline, Marine Veteran, from Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Monica Daly, Army Veteran, from Dayton, Ohio.
- Andy Malecki, Army Veteran, from Westfield, Indiana.
- Chris Karwaski, Army Veteran, from Dayton, Ohio.
- Jeff Norris, Air Force Veteran/ Active-duty Air National Guard, from Hamilton, Ohio.

Host and Comedians

- Stan Shelby, U.S. Navy Veteran and Operation HEAL*ARIOUS host, cut his teeth in the comedy world as a member of the Atlanta comedy community. Stan can be seen performing across the country.
- Ashley Gutermuth, U.S. Air Force Spouse, is a New Jersey-based stand-up comedian and actor. She appeared on ‘The Tonight Show’ with Jimmy Fallon where she was selected by Jerry Seinfeld to win the ‘Seinfeld Challenge.’ In 2021, Ashley won the headliner category of the U.S. Comedy Contest.
- Doug Bennet, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, is a stand-up comedian, actor, radio host specializing in speaking a Perspective with a universal face. When he’s not on stage you can find him on his radio show "Conversations with Comedians" on NLGRADIO.COM as well as the Nempathy show on Twitch Facebook and Instagram.

Judges

- Dewayne White, Army Veteran, is a DC-based standup comedian who performs all over the country. He's a combat-wounded Veteran who served in the Army for 23 years. His humor is drawn from his unique take on his military experience, his life as a husband and father, and the general craziness of life. Dewayne started performing standup with the [Armed Services Arts Partnership's Comedy Bootcamp](#), a crash course in standup comedy for veterans and family members which he now teaches.
- P.T. Bratton, Air Force Veteran, is one of the DMV area's only Veteran & African-American comedians who delivers clean, conscience comedy in a post-pandemic world. He has been in the comedy and performing arts arena for the past 7 years and has performed on all kinds of stages from the iconic and historic Warner Theatre in Washington D.C. to the White House.
- Red Squirrel, Army Spouse, is a nationally touring comedian with Southern Momma Tour and Glitter & Grit Comedy Tour.

About Best Medicine Brigade

[Best Medicine Brigade](#) produces top quality comedy showcases all over the country aims to create opportunities for Veterans & military spouses to share their stories through comedy.

Best Medicine Brigade founder and tour Executive Producer, Robin "Phoenix" Johnson, is excited to partner with the NVMM to kick off the tour during National Humor Month (April). An Ohio-native and alumni of The Ohio State University, Johnson served 26 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Robin's career included five deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. Her awards and decorations include the Airborne, Air Assault and Pathfinder badges, three Bronze stars and the Defense Meritorious Service medal. She has found her new mission in healing her fellow Veterans with a therapeutic humor program, HEAL*ARIOUS.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. [The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.

Click here for [Press Kit](#) containing official photos, biographies and more.

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