



Overview

**RECOGNIZE.
SUPPORT.
EDUCATE.**



Overview of Programs

11th Annual Ceremony, using story of Bob Feller that serves as a beacon and example of legacy for educating today's youth on the profound values of citizenship, service to one's country, and sacrifice during times of national need. Through the Bob Feller Act of Valor Award, we honor those who exemplify these principles.

The Champions of Valor program with the Boys and Girls Club of America, promoting education on service, sacrifice, legacy and citizenship.

Scholarships awarded in 2023 of \$12,000 to deserving individuals. The foundation's ongoing mission is to acknowledge and support the sacrifices made by service members, veterans and their families. As part of this commitment, the foundation will provide financial support for students, service members, veterans and their spouses.

CONTENTS

Our Mission and Purpose

05

From the President

07

Leadership

08

Champions of Valor

09

Year In Review

10

Reports

16

THE BOB FELLER ACT OF VALOR AWARD FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR ANNUAL REPORT, SUMMARIZING THE IMPACTFUL YEAR WE'VE HAD IN HONOURING OUR SERVICE MEMBERS, SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES, AND PROMOTING THE VALUES OF CITIZENSHIP, SACRIFICE, LEGACY, AND SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.

RECOGNIZE. SUPPORT. EDUCATE

Making Our Country Stronger

Our journey continues as we build upon a legacy of recognizing acts of courage and commitment. This year marks significant milestones in our ongoing efforts to make a positive impact on the lives of our nation's heroes.

**Nobody's
a natural.
You work
hard to get
good and
then work
hard to
get better.
It's hard to
stay on top.**

— Bob Feller



The mission of the Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation is

**To champion the
legacy of sacrifice,
service and citizenship.**



Our Vision and **Mission value**

The Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation remains steadfast in our commitment to recognizing and honoring the service of military members, supporting their families, and fostering a deeper understanding of citizenship, sacrifice, legacy and service.

The vision of the Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation is to recognize and honor our service members and those who support them; to provide support to military families and veteran causes; and to educate on the lessons of service, sacrifice, legacy and citizenship.



**RECOGNIZE
SUPPORT
EDUCATE**

Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is.



— Bob Feller

President's Message Moving Forward

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I am filled with a sense of optimism and gratitude for the incredible journey we have undertaken together. Our shared commitment to making a positive impact has not only defined our organization but has also touched the lives of those we serve. Reflecting on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, I am reminded of the unwavering dedication that each member of our community has shown. Your passion and resilience have been the driving force behind our successes, and I want to express my deepest appreciation for your hard work.

As we look ahead to 2024, it is essential that we remain steadfast in our mission while embracing new opportunities for growth and innovation. The landscape of the non-profit sector is ever-evolving, and it is our collective responsibility to adapt and thrive in the face of change.

Here are some key initiatives and priorities that will guide our path forward in the coming year:

Strategic Planning:

We will embark on a comprehensive strategic planning process to ensure that our organization is well-positioned to address current and future challenges. This will involve soliciting input from all stakeholders to shape a road map that aligns with our core values and objectives.

Community Engagement:

Strengthening our ties with the communities we serve is paramount. We will focus on fostering meaningful relationships, listening to the needs of those we aim to assist, and tailoring our programs to make a lasting and positive impact.

Innovation and Technology:

Embracing cutting-edge technologies and innovative approaches will be crucial to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. We will explore new tools and methodologies to amplify our reach and improve the overall experience for our beneficiaries.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion remains unwavering. In 2024, we will redouble our efforts to create an inclusive environment within our organization and ensure that our programs address the unique needs of all individuals, regardless of background or circumstance.

Collaboration:

Building strong partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals will be a cornerstone of our strategy. By working in collaboration, we can leverage collective strengths and resources to achieve greater impact and sustainability.

As we embark on this journey into 2024, I am confident that our shared values and vision will guide us through any challenges we may encounter. Together, we can build a brighter future for those we serve and continue making a positive difference in the world.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our cause. I am honored to lead this extraordinary organization and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.



With gratitude,
MR. PETER FERTIG
Founder and President
Bob Feller Act of Valor

Leadership and Board of Directors

The Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation operates under a robust governance structure, overseen by a dedicated Board of 14 members. Two new members have joined our team, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to guide our initiatives.



PRESIDENT & CEO
Peter Fertig
President,
An Angel's Touch
Publishing Co.



VICE PRESIDENT
Steve Curtis
Army Command
Sergeant Major (Ret.)



TREASURER
Dan Martin
CPACFO (Ret.)



SECRETARY
Doug Paulson
President and GM,
BWXT

BOARD MEMBERS

CJ Loría, MPA
Director I NASA-NOAA Division
Leidos

Terry Spain
Chief Executive Officer,
Terry Spain Consulting, LLC

Bob DiBiasio
Senior Vice President of Public
Affairs, Cleveland Guardians

Raymond Kemp
President,
Kemp Solutions

Jim Folk
Vice President of Ballpark
Improvements,
Cleveland Guardians

Thomas Modly
President and CEO,
T. Bela Strategies, LLC

Bob Arnold
President
Arnold Standard Cos.

Richard H. Schmidt III
Technical Support Specialist,
Katahdin Trust Company

DeWolfe Miller
Corporate VP of Customer Affairs
Huntington Ingalls

Lee Deaner
President
Leading Edge Training

Ken Stefanov
SVP/CFO,
Cleveland Guardians (Ret.)

Our Commitment, Our Future Service, Sacrifice, Legacy & Citizenship

The Champions of Valor Program was designed to instill the values of service, sacrifice, citizenship, and legacy in today's youth. These 4 Educational Pillars of The Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation reflect the traits of a historical and extraordinary group of 40 individuals who put their passion and Major League Baseball careers on hold to bravely serve our country during the start of WWII.

PILLAR 1 SERVICE

Service lies at the heart of being a Champion of Valor. These individuals selflessly dedicate their time, energy, and resources to a cause greater than themselves. They tirelessly work to positively impact their communities, nation, or even the world, driven by an unwavering desire to serve others and improve lives.



PILLAR 3 LEGACY

is the lasting footprint these individuals leave behind. Champions of Valor understand the importance of their actions today in shaping a better tomorrow. They strive to create a legacy of inspiration and positive change that will resonate for generations to come, ensuring their impact endures long after they have passed.



“Champions of Valor” is a phrase that encapsulates the essence of individuals who exemplify the highest ideals of service, sacrifice, legacy, and citizenship. It represents a profound commitment to principles that not only uplift the individual but also contribute significantly to the betterment of society.



PILLAR 2 SACRIFICE

Sacrifice is another defining characteristic of Champions of Valor. They understand that meaningful change often demands personal sacrifices. These champions willingly put their own needs and desires on the line, whether through long hours of hard work, risking their safety for the greater good, or making difficult choices that prioritize the well-being of others.



PILLAR 4 CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is the broader context in which Champions of Valor operate. They are exemplary members of their communities and nations, actively engaging in civic life and advocating for justice, equality, and inclusivity. They lead by example, reminding us all of our shared responsibilities as citizens to contribute to the common good.

BFAOVAF 2023

GuardiansFest

We passionately participated in Cleveland Guardians' GuardianFest, bringing its commitment to community engagement to life, fostering connections, and making a positive impact in the vibrant festivities.



U.S.S. Cooperstown

We proudly attended the commissioning of the U.S.S. Cooperstown, showcasing our Walk of Heroes and our dedication to supporting the military and honoring this new chapter in naval history with reverence and gratitude.

Lasorda Legacy

Lasorda Legacy Park is a state-of-the-art, sports facility built for players of all ages experience the dream of playing like a pro. This year we joined forces to present a folding of the flag ceremony and education clinic at the park.



U.S.S. Constitution

In September, our dedicated team united to pay tribute to newly appointed Chiefs. We were honored with an invitation to the USS Constitution, spearheaded by retired Chief Terry Spain, and were joined by the Army under the leadership of CSM Steve Curtis. This momentous occasion resonates deeply, and I am certain Bob Feller would have felt immense pride.

Run4Life / Walk4Valor

The Foundation's 2023 Run4Life/ Walk4 Valor annual event was again held in Maine and New York to raise awareness and funding to honor our fallen military with Veteran Suicide Awareness and support military families, Veterans and active members through educational scholarships.



Champions of Valor

The Champions of Valor Program employs evidence-based theories that have been successfully used in Character Education, as reported by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse. These theories focus on youth character development and utilize effective methods such as role models, interactive activities, and historical biographies to instill character traits. Using four sessions to highlight the 4 Educational Pillars detailed in this guide, preteens, and teens will understand service, sacrifice, citizenship, and legacy and be encouraged to reflect these attributes in their daily lives.



Champions of Valor Pilot

In October, a pilot program developed with the Boys and Girls Club network. This a renewed source of pride for the foundation as it was launched. This four-week initiative, focusing on service, sacrifice, citizenship, and legacy, became a meaningful endeavor, bringing children closer to the core values.

Annual Award Ceremony

Another successful year as the Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation highlighted the acts of character and dedication that showcase those in the Navy and Marine Corps along with Major League Baseball. The awards were presented to a sold out audience this year. Our awardees included a host of amazing military service men and women along with our Hall of Famer Carlton Fisk. The evening was capped off with the MLB Awardee and World Series pitcher for the Texas Rangers Jon Gray.



Champions of Valor

By developing a thought process outside one's self to the greater good of the community and nation, young individuals become more aware of their roles as responsible citizens and active contributors to a better world. The program provides past and present role models to emulate among age groups who strive to develop a sense of identity and purpose and make decisions regarding their future life paths.



2013 JUSTIN VERLANDER 2014 NICK SWISHER 2015 JONATHAN LUCROY 2016 BRAD ZIEGLER 2017 DARREN O'DAY
2018 SEAN DOOLITTLE 2019 IAN KENNEDY 2020 CRAIG STAMMEN 2021 GRIFFIN JAX 2022 BYRON BUXTON
2023 JON GRAY

Bob Feller Act of Valor Hall of Famer Awardees

- 2013

YOGI BERRA
- 2014

TOMMY LASORDA
- 2015

GEORGE BRETT
- 2016

ROD CAREW
- 2017

TOM SEAVER
- 2018

JOHNNY BENCH
- 2019

RANDY JOHNSON
- 2020

BROOKS ROBINSON JR.
- 2021

JOE TORRE
- 2022

TREVOR HOFFMAN
- 2023

CARLTON FISK

Bob Feller Act of Valor Chief Petty Officer Awardees

- 2013

SENIOR CHIEF GARTH SINCLAIR
- 2014

SENIOR CHIEF CARL THOMPSON
- 2015

CHIEF GENELL CODY
- 2016

SENIOR CHIEF CHRISTOPHER BEEDING
- 2017

CHIEF EDMUNDO BRANTES
- 2018

CHIEF SHAWN WINGLE
- 2019

CHIEF JAIRO N. GUTY
- 2020

CHIEF LACRESHA L. DOWDELL
- 2021

CHIEF JOSHUA A. SAWYER
- 2022

KENDALL D. BURNETT
- 2023

TERRELL M. CULLER

Jerry Coleman Marine Corps Awardees

- 2015

STAFF SERGEANT RENE SEGURA
- 2016

FIRST SERGEANT MARSHALL G. CLEVELAND
- 2017

STAFF SERGEANT ADAM PLAMBECK
- 2018

GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHNATHAN S. ROSE
- 2019

GUNNERY SERGEANT JOSHUA A. MACMILLAN
- 2020

MASTER SERGEANT HERMAN A. KRUPPA
- 2021

FIRST SERGEANT, DANIEL P. BEST
- 2022

GUNNERY SERGEANT JOSEPH WHITE
- 2023

GUNNERY SERGEANT TERRANCE B. SHOWERS

In September, the Chief Petty Officer Mess collaborated closely with the Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation to honor newly appointed Chiefs. Our dedicated team was invited to the USS Constitution by retired Chief Terry Spain, with the Army represented under the leadership of CSM Steve Curtis. This significant event exemplified our shared commitment, reflecting the values that Bob Feller cherished. Additionally, we proudly attended the commissioning of the U.S.S. Cooperstown, featuring our Walk of Heroes. This partnership underscores our joint dedication to supporting the military and reverently marking this new chapter in naval history.



EDUCATING Outreach

President Peter Fertig, and Board member Bob Arnold joined with past HOF Awardee Johnny Bench to showcase our Walk of Valor banners at the dedication of the U.S.S. Cooperstown



Terry Spain, Board Member with VP Steve Curtis with men and women of the United States Navy aboard the U.S.S. Constitution



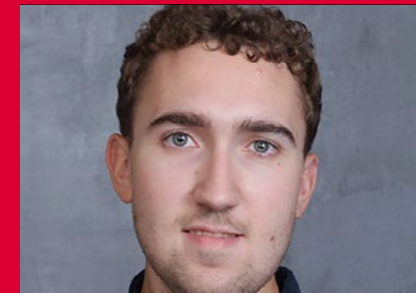
The intersection between Major League Baseball and the United States military

EDUCATING Report

Our non-profit is dedicated to fostering educational opportunities for the heroes of our armed forces and their families. Through scholarships and unwavering support, we pave the way for service members and their loved ones to pursue higher education. Join us in investing in the academic aspirations of those who have sacrificed for our nation. Together, we create a pathway to success, ensuring that the pursuit of knowledge becomes a reality for our brave men and women in uniform and their families.



Emma Castillo
Sue Lin Memorial Charity Fund Scholarship



Casey Coffman
Bob Feller Act of Valor Internship Award



Jasmine Urbina
Run4Life Scholarship Award



SFC Andrew Ackerman
Bangor Savings Bank/Katahdin Trust Company Scholarship Award



Kendra Hernandez
Gil Hodges Memorial Scholarship



Madelyn Ozdarski
Southhold Rotary Scholarship



Recipient Marco Del Bene with VP Steve Curtis and President Peter Fertig
Bob Feller Act of Valor Fellowship Award

\$48,000

The Bob Feller Act of Valor Award Foundation has provided tuition assistance in scholarships and academic awards to deserving veterans and students of military families totaling over \$48,000 since 2020.

IN SUPPORT... Report



As a dedicated non-profit, we steadfastly champion the holistic well-being of our armed forces community. Through unwavering commitment, we provide ongoing support, both financial and emotional, to service members and their families. Our mission is to ensure that those who sacrifice for our nation receive the support and resources they deserve. Join us in fostering a community where gratitude transforms into tangible support, creating a resilient foundation for our heroes and their loved ones.



WALK4VALOR/RUN4LIFE

The Foundation's 2023 Run4Life/ Walk4 Valor annual event was held in Maine and New York to raise awareness and funding to honor our fallen military with Veteran Suicide Awareness and support military families, Veterans and active members through educational scholarships. **Through net proceeds raised the Foundation awarded \$12,000 in tuition assistance to deserving students, Veterans and service members for post secondary education.**



The Foundation also donated a portion of our proceeds to Veterans Moving Forward which provides service dogs and canine therapy services to Veterans with physical and or mental challenges.

IN RECOGNITION

The Bob Feller Act of Valor Award is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 Bob Feller Act of Valor Award. This prestigious honor recognizes acts of courage, service, and commitment of military service members and Major League Baseball players. The 2023 recipients include:

- National Baseball Hall of Fame Award: Carlton Fisk, National BBHOF Inductee 2022
- Major League Baseball Award: Jon Gray, Texas Rangers
- United States Navy Chief Petty Officer Award: Chief Personnel Specialist (Aviation Warfare), Terrel M. Culler
- United States Marine Corps, Jerry Coleman Award: Gunnery Sergeant Terrance B. Showers, Operations Chief of Combat Logistics Battalion 451 (CLB-451)
- Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Award: U.S.S. Tripoli
- Bob Feller Fellowship Award: Nora Belodeau, graduate of Gettysburg College, and Marco DelBene, student at Pace University.



Jon Gray, Texas Rangers with the U.S. Navy Baseball team



Scott Benning, creator of the peer-to-peer award and Michael Botticello of Custom Coin Holders with U.S.S. Tripoli crew winners



United States Marine Corps, Jerry Coleman Award: Gunnery Sergeant Terrance B. Showers, with Sergeant Major Dorsey and President of the Foundation, Peter Fertig



We invite all stakeholders, supporters,
and partners to join us in making a lasting
impact. Whether through volunteering,
participating in events, or contributing to our
initiatives, your involvement is crucial to the
success of our mission.

