

The Ranch Report

Latest News and Updates from Home of the Brave, Inc.

January 2020 – July 2022

Report #7

Update from 2020 to Present...

Home of the Brave, Inc.

When Covid19 hit in 2020, we were quite concerned about how Home of the Brave, Inc. would move forward with our Veteran Programs.

Thanks to the great leadership of Billy Brassel and Joe Hawkins, Home of the Brave, Inc. is stronger than ever.

In 2020 Billy Brassel, US Army Chief Warrant Officer Four, (Retired), took the reins, and became Chief Executive Officer of Home of the Brave, Inc. To read more about Billy and his 39 years of service, visit our website and click on his picture for his biography. In the spring of 2021, Joe Hawkins, US Army, came aboard as our Chief Operations Officer. Together, Billy and Joe, have expanded our veteran outreach and developed more programs to help veterans and active-duty service members and their families.

Connie Brassel is now the Director of Media Relations. You can find our news and pictures on Gettr, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as well as our website, home4brave.com.

Whitney Hawkins is our Program Coordinator of Events and Retreats. Keep up with our newsletters and social media to see the amazing programs and retreats planned for Veterans and their families.

Kelly Akin has stayed on as Chief Financial Officer. Please contact Kelly for any financial and non-profit or organizational matters.



Above pictured: the new Home of the Brave, Inc. logo. Designed by veterans for veterans. Be on the lookout for this logo on shirts, bags, bumper stickers, and more.

“ I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God.” Ecclesiastes 3:12-13



Above Pictured: May 14, 2022 Monthly Gathering of Veterans and Family. Come join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month for food, fellowship, planning and activities.

Below Left: March 12, 2022 Monthly Gathering and Chili Cookoff. Below Right: Billy Brassel presenting Kelly Akin with the “Best Chili” Award.



Monthly Veteran Fellowship Continues...

Every 2nd Saturday of the month H4B hosts a gathering of Veterans and family from all branches of service. Each gathering consists of a devotional, short meeting with updates, lunch, and an activity. Come join us each month.

January 8th gathering was devoted to 2022 planning and end of year 2021 business. Lunch was provided by members of the H4B family.

February 9th lunch was followed by a Woodworking Workshop taught by Bill Rutherford. Mr. Bill Rutherford is a former US Navy Submariner. He is also locally known as “The Birdhouse Man”. Mr. Bill spends his time building and selling birdhouses as well as many other unique and useful items. Visit our website and explore the living local page to find more information on Mr. Bill Rutherford and his woodworking.

March 12th we had a chili cookoff. There were many tasty pots of chili submitted for judging but Kelly Akin with her mom’s original beefy recipe came in for the win.

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Monthly Veteran Fellowship Continues...

(continued)

April 9th H4B hosted Mr. Gary Myers as a speaker to talk about our relationship with Israel. The Shofar was sounded and heard throughout the neighborhood.

May 14th, we held our 2nd Annual Veterans Fishing Tournament. County Lumber and Red Barn Café' sponsored our fishing event and supplied the fish and sides for our fish fry. Awards were given for the Biggest Catch and Most Fish. See story below on page 2.

June 11th was HOT!! Veterans played board games, watched movies, played billiards, and fellowshiped to stay out of the heat. Turner Farms donated fresh beef for the burgers. Thank you, Lee Turner.

July 9th Billy started a monthly door prize giveaway. Walmart blessed H4B with a grant of \$1000. Along with the grant came a quarterly pickup of goods that have been returned to Walmart and cannot be reshelved. When you come to the meetings now, you will be given a ticket. Throughout the day, Billy will hold up an item, call out a number and several veterans are lucky winners.

Don't miss the next Meeting August 13, 2022.

2nd Annual Veterans Fishing Rodeo

The month of May was full of fun, fellowship, and fishing. Each year H4B hosts a Veteran's Fishing Rodeo on the ponds of Akin Cattle Company. The ponds are stocked with catfish, blue gill, and red ear shellcrackers. Along with the fishing

rodeo we had a fish fry and gave away awards.

This year Red Barn Café located in Independence, MS supplied the fish and sides for our fish fry. The



awards and fishing supplies were purchased from the

donations given by County Lumber located on Highway 4 about 10 miles east of Senatobia, MS. If you are in the area, please visit and do business with these great sponsors and tell them thank you for supporting H4B.



Billy Brassel, Joe Hawkins, Sonny Wooley, Haley Akin, Whitney Hawkins, Connie Brassel, Luke Shepherd and Kelly Akin worked hard cooking catfish and serving up deserts. Mr. Bill Rutherford and Sonny Wooley weighed and kept count on every catch. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help make this year's fishing rodeo a success.

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Fishing Rodeo (continued)



Above: Travis Brewer, Marine Veteran, receiving the 2022 Biggest Catch award.

Below: John Paxton, also a Marine Veteran receiving the 2022 Most Fish Caught award.



“It was a good day for the USMC” was heard through the cheers as the awards were given. Each winner received a Bass Pro Shop Gift card, H4B Bag, custom made fishing lures, an H4B plaque, and of course bragging rights.

Mark your calendars for next year’s Veterans Fishing Rodeo which will be held May 13, 2023



Left: Billy Brassel helping with hook removal. Below Left: Bill Rutherford weighting in the Biggest Fish for 2021. Caught by Jacob McMullin (Below)

Bottom : 2021 Winner of Most Fish Caught Award, Ron Hall, USMC



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Olive Branch, MS Marine Corps Jr ROTC Retreat



Above: Olive Branch Marine Corps Jr ROTC Leadership team lead by Major Robert Boyero and Gunnery Sergeant Christopher McGinnis (not pictured)



Day 1 of the leadership retreat was led by Major Robert Boyero with a PowerPoint on characteristics of a great leader.

Before each school year H4B hosts a 3-day leadership retreat for the Marine Corps Jr ROTC cadets from Olive Branch. The retreat for 2022 was held July 29-31. We were blessed to have 7 cadets and 2 instructors to stay in our bunkhouse and enjoy the ranch.

Day 1 of the leadership retreat was led by

Day 2 was spent developing teamwork skills and traversing the challenge course on the ranch. Major Boyero and Gunny McGinnis led their cadets to step outside the box and think of creative ways to solve problems.

Day 3 focus was all about trust. Trust in your team, leadership, and most of all, Trust in Jesus.

We had a great time and look forward to another great leadership retreat next year.



Pictured Bottom Left: Major Boyero gives a PowerPoint on good leadership skills. Center and Top photos are taken from the ranch challenge course. Pictured Above: Ethans team won the Trollies Competition. Left: Elley and Tyrique won the tallest tower challenge.

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Above: Sonny Wooley, Head Wrangler for H4B, leads the way.
Below: Mr Ken Stone making cobbler on the open fire cookout.



Fall of 2021 H4B held their first Veterans Trail Ride for Veterans that owned horses and wanted a little excitement. We had 7 riders mount up and head for the trails around the ranch. Wrangler Sonny Wooley, US Army and a US Navy Staff Sergeant, is no stranger to leading horsemen and women in equestrian activities. Sonny has led many trail rides in several states across America. Sonny created the Southwest Virginia Mounted Search and Rescue Team. Sonny and his mounted teams helped sheriff departments find and rescue lost individuals.

It was a cold day November 13th when we headed out on the trail to ride. We rode a few hours through the woods and across pastures. One of the highlights of the day was riding up to the ranch house and warming up to the campfire. Thanks to Mr. Ken Stone, we enjoyed an old-fashioned fire pit cookout. Mr. Ken Stone from Wyatte, MS stoked the fire in the fire pit and cooked a welcomed hot meal. We ate chili, cornbread, and the most delicious peach cobbler ever made. Special thank you Mr. Ken for warming us up inside and out. Mark your calendars for November 12, 2022, to trail ride with us at a location to be announced soon.

2021 Fall Veterans Trail Ride

Blazing Trails and Making Memories at Home of the Brave



An officer calls a young Soldier to attention, scolding him for not attending camouflage training that morning. "Thank you, Sir." The Soldier responds.

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Woodworking Workshop

Pictured above: Mr. Bill Rutherford, US Navy Submariner, showing workshop students how to build a birdhouse. Mr. Bill also known as “The Birdhouse Man” has a shop at his home where he builds birdhouses as well as custom order projects. H4B was gifted several woodworking tools by Coach Len Durr of Senatobia, MS in 2018. The Late John Steele, SGM US Army, donated a table saw among other tools to the shop this year. The shop building has been unused until Mr. Bill brought it to life in February and purchased the finishing tools as well as organized it for use. We now look forward to many years of workshops and projects. Thank you, Mr. Bill Rutherford for bringing the shop to life and teaching the woodworking workshop in February.



Southern Thunder Harley-Davidson

Southern Thunder Harley-Davidson of Southaven, MS held a Veterans Day Lunch Cookout November 6, 2021 to benefit H4B.

Our very own Chef/Chief, Billy Brassel, led the cooking of burgers and hot dogs for a large crowd of Veterans and motorcycle enthusiasts. Others in attendance helping to cook and representing H4B were, Connie Brassel, Bill Rutherford, Sonny Wooley, Haley and Kelly Akin, and Denni Grace Crabtree.

Horn Lake MCJROTC Color Guard presented the colors at noon. The Patriot Truck was parked for all to view.

Thank you, Veterans, for the freedoms we enjoy every day.

Our mission in life should be that we live in a way so that we earn the sacrifices that were made for us; not taking one day for granted and understanding that freedom is not free.

“The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord.

- Proverbs 21:31

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Home of the Brave Sponsors Dinner

November 2021 H4B held a special dinner to honor those that have been so faithful to support Home of the Brave each year. Speaker and Pastor John Goldwater from Christ Community Church in Grenada, MS entertained and brought the message of salvation through a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is the second time John has spoken at our events and he never disappoints.



Left: Joe Hawkins with the help of his son A.J. Hawkins and Billy Brassel poured a concrete pad for a wheelchair ramp to help a fellow veteran, Mr. John Steele, SGM US Army, and wife Sue. H4B men were able to step up and help.

Sadly, we lost Mr. Steele June 8, 2022.

Redeemed Wrestling at Wyattte Baptist Church

H4B attended a Redeemed Wrestling event to support Ron and Brandi Horner and their ministry that rocks the neighborhood and brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the center of the ring. Ron and Brandi Horner live in Wyattte, MS, and travel across the Mid-South setting up their wrestling ring and preaching Gods Word.

Redeemed Wrestling raises money for charities that benefit individuals all over the world as well as local families that are in need. Thank you, Redeemed Wrestling, for allowing us to be part of your ministry.



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ARMY vs NAVY



December 11, 2021, H4B held the annual Army / Navy Football watch party. During halftime, we drew for our Winter Raffle Fundraiser. In 2021 we raffled two \$500 gift cards. The winners were, Mr. Mike Stuart and Mr. Ron Hall. Congratulations to both....

Oh, and by the way....
NAVY won 17-13.



Above: **Andrea Richardson** collected charitable donations from her National Honor Society and chose H4B as the recipient

Below: **Walmart** blessed H4B with a \$1000 Grant as well as free merchandise quarterly.

Veterans Home of Oxford, MS

H4B collects items throughout the year to be delivered to the Oxford, MS Veterans Home. The items are packaged and delivered the week before Christmas. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Billy Brassel.



Items that are always needed are socks, shampoos, toothbrushes, all hygiene items, reading glasses, headphones that plug into TVs, belts, Stamps, Gloves, knitted

caps, house shoes, arts and crafts, electric razors, Kleenex, universal TV remotes, and PJ's.

There are currently around 100 residents at the Veterans Home.



Above : **Guaranty Bank** donated \$250 to H4B to help sponsor our veterans programs.

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The Bees are Buzzing



Our first packages of bees arrived deceased. The complany was fair and replaced the bees the following year. However, they were not delived until Spring 2022. The bees are doing well. We are watching them closely for mites and hive beetles. We also discovered what “dearth” means. It can be a painful word if you

are not expecting the excitement. There is a period in the summer that necter is not available and the bees become “hangry”. Ladies ask your husbands what that means. The bees are also not thrilled about the heat this summer. Needless to say, during this time Haley and Kelly play rock- paper-scissors to determine who has to work the hives. Kelly is not good at that game. Benadryl and Calamine Lotion have been a blessing. All in all, working the bees has been a joy. Bees are incredibly smart and it is amazing how God created such a complicated process in such a small package. Looking forward to harvasting honey next year. Summer/Fall of 2023. We will keep you posted.



“Bruce” is our cow pasture security specialist. He keeps the coyotes and stray dogs out of the pasture and protects the baby calves. He is also quite the clown when people come to look at cattle. Everyone loves Bruce... well, almost everyone. Probably not a good idea to ask Brandon Bishop of REDS GARAGE – Diesel Repair Shop about Bruce;

Sunsets - Thank you Lord, for the beauty of each day. Amen



Where the Deer and the Antelope Cattle Play...

Each year we fall in love with the new baby calves that are born on the ranch. This year is no different. The following pictures are just a few sweet faces that we see every day.

We are just a month or so away from weaning calves. We will put them all together in a pen and get them eating grain and settled in before they are turned out on winter pastures.



(Left): Meet “Kevin.” Kevin, the rooster, is the most recent member of the

family. Looks like he is going to fit in just fine.

(Above) Must be a Monday... “Barbara Jean” is having a hard time getting going today.



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22Vine

Veterans In Need of Encouragement



H4B sends care packages FREE to **Veterans in Need of Encouragement**. If you know a Veteran that could use a little “pick me up” or you just want to let them know you are thinking of them; get in touch with us (**Kelly (662)-418-8888** or **Kelly@home4brave.com**) and we will send a care package FREE. We send out a limited number each month. Make sure you get your orders in early.

Visit our website:

www.home4brave.com to find out more about our programs and to make a Donation

Home of the Brave, Inc.

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Kelly Akin CFO kelly@home4brave.com
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Connie Brassel connie@home4brave.com
Whitney Hawkins Whitney@home4brave.com



H4B may be the missing piece to your puzzle.

We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Come join us.

August 13, 2022

Devotional starts at 1030 followed by a brief update of business and events.
Lunch served at 1200
Activity TBD

September 10, 2022

Devotional starts at 1030 followed by a brief update of business and events.
Lunch served at 1200
Activity TBD

October 8, 2022

Devotional starts at 1030 followed by a brief update of business and events.
Lunch served at 1200
Activity TBD

November 12, 2022

Devotional starts at 1030 followed by a brief update of business and events.
Lunch served at 1200
Activity: Veterans Trail Ride
Firepit Cookout

December 10, 2022

Devotional starts at 1030 followed by a brief update of business and events.
Lunch served at 1200
Activity: Army/ Navy Game
Raffle Drawing at Halftime

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Thank You **Lee Turner** for the fresh beef for our June Monthly Veterans Gathering. We enjoyed!!

Penny's Pantry

Thank You **County Lumber** on Hwy 4 for sponsoring our Fishing Rodeo in May 2022



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Billy Brassel
662-417-9142



RED BARN CAFÉ
Independence, MS
Good Food & Good Friends

Thank you for supporting H4B Fishing Rodeos

Akin
CATTLE COMPANY

 www.AkinCattleCo.com Haley & Kelly Akin



C3 Properties, LLC

Commercial and Residential Rental Property
Kelly Akin – 662-418-8888

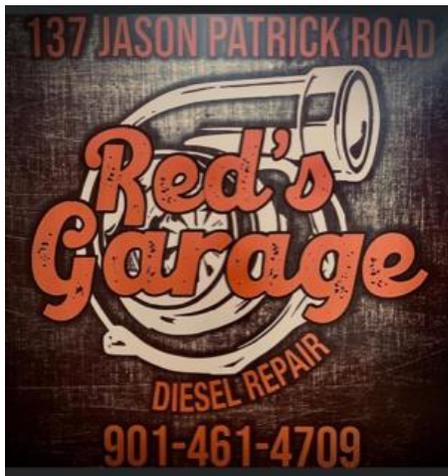
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First Baptist Church of Coldwater Prime Timers



For more information on Home of the Brave, Inc. or to support our programs, visit our website www.home4brave.com or schedule a visit to the ranch.

If you would like to support us. You may send your donations to....

Home of the Brave, Inc.
1038 Hwy 305 N
Senatobia, MS, 38668



Walmart of Senatobia