



2017 Participant bios

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PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

SGT (ret.) Chris Boutin

Service Branch: Vermont ARNG & USMC Region: New England Program: Green Mountain



From 2003 through 2008, Chris Boutin served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry machine gunner with 3rd Battalion 6th Marines Lima Company. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2004, and to Iraq from 2005-2006. Shortly after returning from Iraq he was sent to 29 Palms, CA to be a Coyote (warfare instructor). He was slated to exit the Marine Corps in 2007 but was placed on medical hold and transferred to the Wounded Warrior Battalion East. After a year of medical hold, he exited the Marine Corps due to good medical health. In 2008 he joined the Vermont Army National Guard as a Forward Observer. He deployed with them in 2010 back to Afghanistan. He was promoted to E-5 Sergeant and was medically retired, after deployment, in 2012. Since his retirement, Chris Boutin has become an advocate for veterans.

He is currently in his junior year of college at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT. He is majoring in psychology and plans to work at the VA as a mental health and substance abuse counselor. He attributes his passion and drive to the fact he has lost seven friends to suicide post deployment. He states that instead of complaining about the failures of the system he wants to help make a difference. While in college he has made the Dean's and President's lists multiple times. He is currently the Vice President of the Saint Michael's College Student Veterans of America chapter. He has led the effort to create an assistance fund for veterans and military-connected students.

He has been active in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing for little over a year now and has shown excellent leadership skills since. He has gone from never holding a fly rod or tying flies, to participating in multiple trips, helping veterans learn to cast, and teaching fellow veterans tricks he has acquired, tying flies. This year he has spearheaded planning a trip that will take 26 veterans and 12 volunteers to northern New Hampshire. Through his hard work and dedication, the Green Mountain Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program has received a significant discount for this trip. He has also participated in approximately ten different events- most of which involved interaction with the local press- that helped our local affiliate gain recognition and raised money. Lastly, this past winter Chris has been able to secure a space on Saint Michael's College to host our fly tying and rod building sessions. This consistent home has helped us gain many new members.

Chris attributes Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing to his personal recovery. As a veteran who struggled to find healthy ways to take care of himself, he has battled depression and anxiety. He states that since he has started with the program, he looks forward to each and every event and enjoys talking with veterans and volunteers alike. He has participated in the Kodiak Alaska trip and describes it as life changing. On that trip, he has made close connections with not only the other veteran participants but the volunteers who helped teach him the ways of salmon fishing. Fishing Alaska was a lifetime dream of his, and he feels blessed to have been able to go.

In his free time, he can be found playing with his three-year-old twin boys, Abel and Owen or in his garage where he dabbles in woodturning making wooden bowls for his supportive wife, Briana. He also enjoys watching YouTube videos of different fly tying techniques and patterns.



Sgt (sep.) Richard Brown

Service Branch: US Air Force Region: Tennessee Valley Program: Knoxville



I am 67 years old. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1969, and was honorably discharged in 1972, as a sergeant. My specialty was a machinist, I worked on aircraft and repaired parts, and made things out of metal. After tech. school, I was stationed at Phu Cat Vietnam. My next station was Eglin Air Force Base Florida, where I worked in the Air Force armament and test laboratory as a machinist, and was on the base honor guard. I was discharged from the Air Force while at this station.

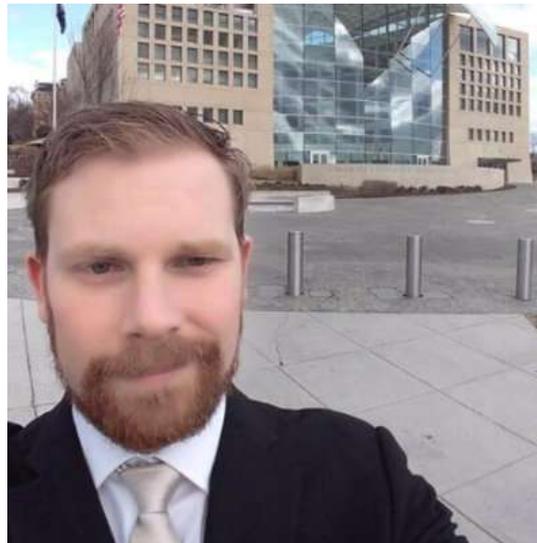
I am 80% disabled from Agent Orange exposure.

I moved to Tennessee and got involved with PHWFF, in April 2015. Since then I have been learning how to fly fish and have gone on several short outings. I have been involved in fly tying and fly rod building, and have entered my fly rod in the rod building competition. The program has helped me in getting out, and around other people. Being out on the water has helped me with my anger issues, and being around my brothers and sisters has also helped with my survival guilt.



CPT (ret.) Nick Christian

Service Branch: US Army Region: National Capital Program: Ft. Belvoir



Captain (Ret.) Nicolas Christian was born 28 April 1988 in Walnut Creek, California. Moved to Vermont where he graduated from Norwich University and earned his commission as an Engineer through the ROTC program and became a 2LT in 2010. He has been stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Fort Hood, TX and Fort Drum NY. He has been a Platoon Leader, an Executive Officer, Battalion Staff Officer and a Brigade Engineer. He has done two deployments to Afghanistan and been to seven different provinces in the country. His job in Afghanistan was Route Clearance with the unit 59th Mobility Augmentation Company, 8th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade. He has also been with 7th Engineer Battalion, 1BCT, 10th Mountain Division and served as the Brigade Engineer for the 10th Mountain Division Sustainment Brigade. After six years in Active Duty and almost 10 years in the service total, he retired in September of last year. He has two Master's degrees and lives in Alexandria with his wife Sheila.



SSG (sep.) Ken Davis

Service Branch: US Army Region: Virginia Program: Shenandoah



Ken Davis enlisted in the US Army from 1979 - 1991. Some of my assignments include Korea, Neu Ulm Germany and many stations in the US. My last assignment was Berlin, Germany and I had the good fortune to see the wall come down. We also got to train in the famous Dough Boy City and was able to visit East Berlin while they were still under communist rule. I was a Nuclear Biological, Chemical (NBC) Non Commissioned Officer. My final rank was a Staff Sergeant (SSG) and my highest award was the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

I am in the Shenandoah Chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), I started a little over 3 years ago. A social worker told me about the organization and connected me to Bill Cartwright. And as they say the rest is history. The program has helped me in many ways. One primary way is with the camaraderie with everyone. PHWFF has disabled vets from every branch and we have a great time when we get together. It's a blessing because everyone understands how everyone feels no matter what branch we came from because we have has some of the same problems and its.

I have fished all my life but never fly fishing, once I started fly fishing it has become addicting. The peace of being on the water even if you don't catch a fish. Releasing a fish also has a special feeling after you caught him on your fly and your equipment just to see him get released is special. This has helped with my anxiety and depression and not to mention all of my others problem. They at least seem to disappear for a little while ,for this I thank PHWFF.



CPT (ret.) Eivind O. Forseth

Service Branch: US Army Region: National Capital



Captain Eivind O. Forseth, USA Retired, was born and raised in Billings, Montana. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1993. He served an extended European tour in Germany from 1994 to 1998, while assigned to the 1st Armored Division as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Gunner and Squad Leader. This assignment included a 12-month tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor from 1995 to 1996.

Eivind separated from the Army in 1998 and earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Riverside in 2002. In 2003, he reenlisted and was commissioned upon graduation from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger School and was assigned to D Company, 2/325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division as a Platoon Leader. The White Falcons deployed to Iraq in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 4 January 2005, in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, Eivind was severely wounded as a result of a blast from an Improvised Explosive Device. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his wounds sustained in combat.

Eivind recovered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. He served as a project coordinator for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) from its inception in 2005 to his retirement from the Army in March of 2008. Eivind's father taught him to fly fish at the age of fourteen. Fishing and floating the Stillwater and Yellowstone Rivers in Montana with his family became his favorite pastime. Eivind attributes PHWFF with helping him overcome his disability by learning to fly fish and tie flies adaptively. As he and his family will attest, PHWFF has been instrumental to his emotional and physical recovery.

This year, Eivind transferred from Test Management at the Naval Air Warfare Center – Weapons Division at Point Mugu, California to a Program Analyst position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources in Alexandria, Virginia. Eivind currently resides in Clifton, Virginia with his wife, Tara, and their daughter, Astrid Linnea. His son, Tristan Eivind, attends college at San Francisco State University. Eivind and his family are settling in and happy to be back in the PHWFF National community.

PROJECT
HEALING WATERS
FLYFISHING

SSG (ret.) Angela Harrison

Service Branch: US Army Region: North Carolina Program: Fayetteville



Angela Harrison is 46-year-old native of the Empire State, born in Brooklyn and raised in the New York City borough of Queens. She joined the Army immediately after high school in 1988 and attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina to be assigned duties as a Human Resources Specialist. After 4 years of service, Angela separated from the Army in 2001, then was recalled to active duty in the wake of 9/11. She continued serve until being medically retired in 2010 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. She served the Army at number of posts to include Fort Meade, Fort Dix, Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, Fort Gordon, Germany, and Korea. Angela's military career includes 3 Middle east deployments; one in Kuwait, one to Camp Doha, Qatar and another to Camp Ramadi, Iraq. She maintains being hand-picked to be part of the units that raided Saddam's palace, as one of her career highlights. While there, she marveled at the lavish beauty of the gold and marble structures. Her many service awards include; Joint Service Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Since retirement, Angela has been employed as a licensed Massage and Bodywork Therapist, dually licensed in the states of Georgia and North Carolina. She enjoys spending family time with her 24-year-old daughter, 18-year-old son, and 7-year-old granddaughter.



SGT (sep.) Josh Keener

Service Branch: US Army Region: West Virginia Program: Morgantown

I enlisted in the army in 1966. Did my basic training in at Fort Jackson South Carolina. Then I went to Fort Gordon Georgia for my infantry training. Then I went to Fort Benning Georgia for my airborne training. In 1967 I went to Vietnam. My duties were to carry an M-60 machine gun. In 1968 I left Vietnam and went to Berlin Germany and made sergeant E5. In 1969 I was honorably discharged.

Healing Waters is about bringing people together and enjoying the outdoors. I enjoy the fly tying and rod building and talking to the people. I want to thank all volunteers for their work to make this come true.



CPT (sep.) Ben Miller

Service Branch: US Army Region: Tennessee Valley Program: Chattanooga



Ben F. Miller III was born into a middle-class family on December 29, 1948. His father was a veteran and his mother worked in a defense plant during WWII. They raised him with the values of God, country and family.

He graduated from Central High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1966. He was involved in ROTC at Central and when he went to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, participation in the ROTC program was without question. He went in to the advanced ROTC program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt in August 1971 in the Military Intelligence branch of the US Army. He reported for active duty December 2, 1971, at Fort Benning, GA, where he attended Infantry Officer Basic Course and graduated as a Small Unit Tactical Leader on orders for Vietnam. He then went to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, and attended the Counterintelligence Agents Course and graduated as a CI Agent in July, 1972. When he came home following the CI Agent's training, he was on leave awaiting port call for Vietnam. Instead, he was sent to Germany instead of Vietnam. He served at the 3rd Brigade 3rd ID as Assistant S-2 and then was PCS'd to V-Corps Headquarters, 205th MI Detachment to serve as a CI Agent. While on active duty, he sustained two injuries during training exercises.

He returned home in December, 1974, and joined the Reserves. He served in the 3397 USAG until he was passed over for promotion to Major after 14 years of service. He emphasizes that this was a low point of his life and as bad as any pain he has ever endured. As a result, he looked for other ways to serve and give back to the community. Currently, he volunteers working with First Responders and veterans and serves as a Chaplain with the Chattanooga Police Department. While looking for resources to aid him in his efforts to help, he heard of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and went to one of the meetings. He met Ross Schweinforth, who looked right through him and saw a wounded veteran, a hurt soul who needed what PHWFF offered, which was a safe place where men with a common bond could come together in fellowship. He went with the intent to help, to be a care giver as he had for over 20 years, but Ross said that Ben should just come and be a part of the group, which he did. He states that he can't express how soothing to the soul PHWFF has been for him, gently and lovingly providing him that respite he so desperately needed. PHWFF offers fellowship with other veterans and produces feelings of comfort and acceptance. When you couple this with being able to go to some beautiful and incredibly relaxing areas, he considers it salve for the soul. Having common interest in fly fishing, learning about a challenging and entertaining sport, and being around men with common values is magic and are all things he considers valuable in the program. Instead of giving, he is learning to receive a peace that has evaded him for years.



SPC4 (sep.) Ken Misko

Service Branch: US Army Region: Virginia Program: Roanoke / New River Valley



I served in U.S. Army Aviation 1966 - 1969. I served in Vietnam 1967 - 1968 as Crew Chief Door Gunner with 240th Greyhounds in support of 9th Infantry. I personally flew with the Gunships (Mad Dogs).

Fishing to me is about where the fish live. Catching is secondary. The Project Healing Waters Program has enabled me to be with people with similar life experiences (who get me). The generosity of volunteers associated with Project Healing Waters has stimulated me to become a guide and help others who are in more need than me."

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

SGT (ret.) Dan Moneymaker

Service Branch: US Army Region: Tennessee Valley Program: Knoxville



Daniel was born in Colfax, Washington in April of 1951 to the family that depended on hunting and fishing to provide meat for the dinner table. His father, Roy, taught Dan to hunt on the family farm for upland game birds, water fowl, and white-tailed deer. Fishing was done on many lakes, streams, and rivers of the Washington, Oregon, and Idaho area that he lived near. Dan honed his fishing skills on the Snake, the Grande Ronde, the Clearwater, the St. Joe, and the St. Marie's Rivers. After two years of college, Dan joined the US Army in 1971. He trained as a Military Policeman and was sent to Vietnam. He served as a Security Advisor and his many jobs included checking security on U.S. installations and fire bases, convoy escorts (food, fuel and ammunition), and the high point of his tour was when he was detailed to guard the entrance to the "War Room" where all plans and objectives were made concerning the war. It was during his tour in Vietnam that he was exposed to Agent Orange that would come back to affect him in later years. Dan went on to serve for five more years all over the U.S. and Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1977. He went to work for the U.S. Postal Service in 1981 and carried mail for the next 24 ½ years. During this time he started to suffer from severe depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the effects of the exposure to Agent Orange. He retired in 2006 and was declared permanently and totally disabled. His depression and physical ailments caused him to be confined to his wheel chair and house. In 2013, he met Steve Thompson, Program Lead for the Knoxville program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), and was invited to "go and see what we are all about". He tried to

give Steve a million reasons why he couldn't join but eventually Steve convinced him to give it a try. After his first outing to the Smokies, something clicked in his head. He was introduced to fly tying and he has now made this his hobby and profession. He has gone on many fun excursions with PHWFF to include the Yellowstone River in Montana and the Florida Keys. He talks up PHWFF with as many veterans as possible. He was married to Kathy for 38 ½ years and is the father of Jason, Robert, and Andrew. He is also a grandfather to five grandsons. "If it hadn't been for Steve and PHWFF, I would probably be dead by now. I had no purpose or meaning to my life. They have given me a reason to live and try to do good things for others" – Dan Moneymaker

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

SFC (ret.) Walter Morse

Service Branch: US Army Region: New England



Walter Morse served in the US Army from 1991 to 2012. He was trained as a Airborne Cavalry Scout and as a Medic. Walter Morse last deployed as a Scout Platoon Sergeant with 3-61 CAV 2/2ID. He led a platoon responsible for Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition in Southeast Baghdad. On 16 September 2007, while on a combat mission, Walter's vehicle was struck by Explosive Formed Projectile IED resulting in him being wounded. Walter spent a year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and 2 additional years receiving medical treatment at the Fort Meade Warrior in Transition Unit where he learned to Fly fish with PHWFF. After Medically retiring from the US Army Walter volunteered as the Outings Coordinator for the Walter Reed Program. He currently is a Registered Maine Guide and has a farm in Maine with his wife and 2 children. He is looking forward to continuing to Guide participant's on the scenic waterways of Maine. His military awards include the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal and numerous others. .

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

SSG (ret.) James Scott

Service Branch: US Army Region: Tennessee Valley Program: Chattanooga



James Scott grew up on Signal Mountain, TN and learned to fish on the Tellico River. In 2004 he joined the Army as a cavalry scout and deployed to the al Anbar province of Iraq in 2006. In 2008 he attended the Naval School of Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida where he rediscovered his love of fishing, and learned to build rods before finishing as the Honor Graduate of his class in 2009. He was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq later that year as an EOD team leader.

After leaving active duty in 2011, James enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where he cofounded the UTC Student Veterans Organization, which has since created an endowed scholarship for veterans at UTC. In 2014 he graduated summa cum laude with highest honors in history, and then moved with his family to Scotland to study at the University of

Glasgow. James graduated with a Master of Letters with distinction in War Studies and returned to Chattanooga where he teaches history and works as a historian at the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center. He tied his first fly at his first Project Healing Waters meeting in 2015, and caught his first fish on a fly rod later that spring. Much more than just an escape from his normal routine, Project Healing Waters has been extremely helpful in getting James active, outside, and meeting new people. James is blessed to have the love and support of his wife Vanessa (even as the house has filled with fly tying materials), and he has a great new fishing buddy in his son Bobby, who caught his very first fish this summer and is already helping his dad tie flies.



Cpl (sep.) Brady Sisk

Service Branch: USMC Region: Virginia Program: Roanoke / New River Valley



Brady Sisk has become a very, very dedicated and valuable participant to Virginia's Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Southwest Virginia Program.

Brady is a Viet Nam veteran who was honorably discharged from the U S Marine Corps.

His combined service-connected disability evaluation yielded a rating of disability at 90%. He is paid benefits at the 100% rate because the VA has ruled him as being unemployable and totally and permanently disabled due to his service-connected disabilities.

The VA decision of his disabilities was significantly based on service-connected coronary artery disease, s/p MI with CABG associated with herbicide exposure. As a result of his service-connected coronary disease, he underwent triple coronary bypass surgery in March of 2011. He was also rated at 70% disability rating due to PTSD. He has been awarded a special monthly stipend due to being housebound as a result of the totality of his service-connected disabilities.

Despite his service connected disabilities, he is indeed one of the most faithful Program meeting and fishing outing attendees.

Brady has also played a key role with the Program's volunteer project of replacing all five of the casting decks (which allow accessibility for the handicapped) along Riverbound X-Stream Fly Fishing's leased waters of Big Cedar Creek in Lebanon, VA. Riverbound has served many outings for the Virginia Region Program as well as one of the very first (if indeed not *the* very first) fishing outings held by Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. in 2006 when Ed Nicholson brought in participants from Walter Reed Medical Center.

To his great credit and activism for veterans, Brady has succeeded in bringing in additional participants to the Program who are among a highly sought after group – Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

He has mechanical skills and work experience that help in so many ways whenever we are conducting volunteer work like replacing the casting decks.

Brady is a very respected and admired member of the Program. He is that person every group needs to enhance that critically important element of camaraderie by being the one who is always present, always upbeat, always has a smile, and always has an attitude and sense of humor that lifts the spirits of everyone as soon as he shows up. We are a better organization because of Brady Sisk.

For all of the reasons cited above Brady is an excellent nominee to participate in the upcoming Mossy Creek Invitational. He embodies the spirit and example of all that Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and stands for and is an excellent ambassador representing the Virginia Region Program.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

SSG (sep.) Terry Sturm

Service Branch: US Army Region: West Virginia Program: Morgantown



Here is a video of Terry explaining his military experience and his involvement with PHWFF and what the program means to him.

<https://vimeo.com/188346080>



Cpl (sep.) Jim Wolfe

Service Branch: US Army Region: West Virginia Program: Morgantown

Went into the Marine Corp in February 1968. My basic training was in San Diego California and my advance training was in Camp Pendleton California. After advance training I was deployed to Da Nang Vietnam . From there I was deployed to North Vietnam close to the DMZ. After a few months there my battalion was put on a ship and we made beach landings where ever conflicts were turning up in Vietnam. We continued this until I had appx. (6) weeks left on my tour.

I started out in Vietnam as a Pvt. then with in a month I went to a Pfc. and with in (2) months I became a Corporal and a squad leader. My tour of duty was 1968 and 1969.

It took many years for me to seek help from the VA for PTSD. The program has helped me tremendously but the Healing Waters program has been a blessing in disguise. The chance to do something different, meet people who has had the same problems and to be able to interact with them. Spend time in a relaxing atmosphere and learn how to fly fish, tie flies and build rods. I never thought I could find the satisfaction this program and the instructors have provided me.

Anyone who is struggling with the after effects of being in combat needs to look at the Healing Waters Project as a way to ease your mind with Vets who have went thru the same thing.

Thank you Healing Waters and Thank You Instructors.

Sincerely,

Jim Wolfe