



# NEWSLETTER

*MAY 2023*

PICTURED: Volunteers ready to support ONU  
at the Veterans Cup on Friday, April 28, 2023



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# What's New at ONU

## Message from the CEO

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**May 2023**

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Dear Friends,

This month, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding effort put forth by so many of you in ensuring the success of our recent legislative session in Tallahassee. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors, alumni, community partners, volunteers, supporters, and staff, we were able to share the remarkable story of ONU with key decision-makers, ultimately resulting in securing vital funding for our program.

I also want to acknowledge the Tallahassee legislators who were instrumental in championing our Appropriations request. Governor Ron DeSantis, Representative Linda Chaney, Senator Clay Yarborough, Senator Danny Burgess, Senator Ed Hooper, James "Hammer" Hartsell, and the entire team at the Veterans Administration demonstrated exceptional leadership and advocacy, sponsoring our Appropriations request, and securing the funding that will enable us to scale and grow our program across the state and beyond.

A special thanks goes to ONU Volunteer, Michelle Moore, for leading the charge in our Veteran Alumni outreach efforts. Her tireless work in coordinating outreach via email and phone calls played a crucial role in our success.

Thanks to your incredible efforts, we are now in a strong position to continue delivering exceptional services to our veterans and their families, helping them to secure meaningful and rewarding careers as they transition back to civilian life. This funding will also allow us to focus our efforts on expanding ONU's footprint in the state of Florida, launching a new and improved online training program (VOLT), and making more classes available to Military Spouses.

We are so excited to get started and we will be sharing updates with you throughout the year. We could not have achieved this success without this community's unwavering support and dedication, and for that, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Blessings,

*Michele A McManamon*

Michele McManamon  
CEO, Operation New Uniform



# Upcoming Programs

**Friday,  
May 19**

YOU'RE  
INVITED

**8:30 AM**

UNF Adam W. Herbert  
Resource Center

[CLICK HERE  
TO RSVP](#)

## VETERAN CLASS 53 GRADUATION CEREMONY



Join us in celebration as we honor the graduates of Class 53! The graduation ceremony will begin at 8:30 AM with continental breakfast included. This is a fantastic opportunity to congratulate these 11 Veterans for their hard work and wish them well in their new careers.

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:

We're thrilled to welcome **Melissa Circelli**, Chief Human Resources Officer at Fidelity National Financial as our guest speaker.

## NEW & IMPROVED VETERAN ONLINE TRAINING: **LAUNCHING SOON!**



Next month, we will be launching an upgraded version of our Veteran Online Training Program (**VOLT**). The new and improved platform will have enhanced course content and a user-friendly student dashboard that will help Veterans and Military Spouses get the services they need from afar.

**June 2023**

COMING  
SOON

Stay Tuned at  
[www.onuvets.org](http://www.onuvets.org)

## VETERAN CLASS 54: JACKSONVILLE **ENROLLING NOW!**



**We are seeking applicants for our next Veteran Class in Jacksonville, Florida.** Classes begin on Monday, July 12 and end with a formal graduation ceremony on Friday, July 28.

**Apply now at [www.onuvets.org](http://www.onuvets.org)**

**Monday, <sup>12</sup>  
July 12**

APPLY  
NOW

Hosted at Operation  
New Uniform Office

# 7th Annual Veterans Cup

On Friday, April 28, we celebrated our 7th Annual Veterans Cup. More than 50 volunteers and 130 avid shooters and supporters of our Veteran and Military Spouse community gathered at **Jacksonville Clay Target Sports** to raise money for Operation New Uniform programs. The day was filled with friendly competition, great food, camaraderie, and fun surprises.



"What an amazing day for ONU and the Veteran community," said ONU CEO Michele McManamon. "The stars aligned for us. We had beautiful weather and a truly fantastic turnout for our annual event! Thanks to sponsors **Black Knight, Dealer Vehicle Accessories, Ascendo Resources, Global Interconnect, Hueman People Solutions, and Marsh Landing Title** for their generosity. We hit our fundraising target and we had an amazing day." she concluded.



The event kicked off with delicious boxed lunches catered by **Mission BBQ**, and participants bid on raffle prizes donated by local businesses including **World Golf Village, Broomsage Quail Plantation, Rounded by Concealment Express, Beards Jewelers**, and more. Teams then broke off for a two-hour shoot, competing on two state-of-the-art clay shooting courses. The event concluded with an awards ceremony and reception that was graciously underwritten by **Manifest Distillery, Haskell, Veterans United Brewery, and Season's 52**. While on the course, participants enjoyed survival bags filled with tournament essentials such as cigars and cigar cutters donated by **Drew Estates**, and some light snacks and refreshments. A fabulous time was had by all and we're already looking forward to next year's event.



# 7th Annual Veterans Cup



CEO Michele McManamon with Top Shooters Knightly Duris & Mike Biagini



First Place Team from Black Knight with ONU Staff Jennifer Wydler



Ascendo Team Members & Station Sponsors



ONU Alumni & City Council candidate Chris Miller led us in prayer



Veterans Cup Co-Chair Jim Cotton and his team out on the course



Jim Webb of Manifest Distillery donated shooter prizes and reception cocktails



Co-Chair KC Padgett delivers World Golf Village raffle prize to Dr. Paul Suhey



Hueman People Solutions team members enjoying cigars from Drew Estates



Mark Your Calendars for the  
8th Annual Veterans Cup  
Friday, April 5, 2024

Contact [jenna.elkins@onuvets.org](mailto:jenna.elkins@onuvets.org) to secure early bird pricing!



# ONU Expands to Tampa!



We are thrilled to share that Operation New Uniform has officially expanded to the vibrant city of Tampa, Florida! This expansion marks a significant milestone in our mission to support and empower more veterans in their transition to civilian life.

Tampa, with its dynamic community and thriving job market, presents an ideal environment for veterans seeking new opportunities and fresh beginnings. By expanding our operations to this remarkable city, we aim to extend our unwavering support to the veterans residing in and around the Tampa Bay area.

Tampa resident Breanna Delong, pictured here at MacDill Air Force Base, joined the ONU team as Programs Outreach Coordinator and will be working to foster employer relationships in the greater Tampa area as well as promoting our program and services to the Veteran community. Breanna has her Masters in Social Work and has been a military spouse for six years.



In April, we celebrated the graduation of Class 52 in Tampa and joined together with Tampa Bay Vet Net for an evening networking event at Brick House Tavern. For more information on upcoming programs in Tampa, contact [breanna.delong@onuvets.org](mailto:breanna.delong@onuvets.org).





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# Connect with Our Team

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Michele McManamon  
CEO



Elise Prescott  
Programs Outreach



Tracey Bradley, Sr.  
Programs Outreach



Jennifer Wydler  
Volunteer Coordinator



Tammy Jones  
Executive Assistant



Breanna DeLong  
Programs Outreach, Tampa



Annie Szot  
VOLT Coordinator



Jenna Elkins  
Marketing & Events



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## Contact Us

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**Looking for more ways to get connected with ONU?**



Send us a message at [info@operationnewuniform.org](mailto:info@operationnewuniform.org)



Visit our website at [www.onuvets.org](http://www.onuvets.org)



Give us a call at 904-328-1600



Join the Loyalty Brigade

