

THE SUCCESS OF SERVICE DOGS

Companionship is critical!

Evidence shows that compared to drug therapy and counseling, service members and Veterans often have lower PTSD symptomology, reduced depression, and increased social participation when paired with a medical service dog that is fully trained to mitigate a person's visible and invisible disabilities.



Medical service dogs are providing something special, a missing connection, for our Veterans.

While the use of service dogs is scientifically proven to be a better option in most cases, the VA has limited ability to pay and prescribe a service dog. Some Veterans are eligible under the 2021 PAWS Act; however, in most cases the individual has the responsibility to find a credible source for a medically qualified dog and often have to pay for the training.

NGAM has partnered with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs to help unleash the solution.



FACT:

Not a single recipient of a Guardian Angels Medical Service Dog has succumbed to suicidal ideations.

ABOUT NGAM

The National Guard Association of Michigan is the professional association that represents the Soldiers and Airmen, officer and enlisted, families, and partners of the Michigan National Guard. As a non-profit organization, NGAM advocates for the advancement and wellbeing of our members and all Veterans.

Annually, NGAM awards nearly \$500,000 in grants to help Veterans with financial needs across the state of Michigan. With the 54 by '24 campaign, NGAM hopes to expand our charitable giving across the United States and be one of the premier organizations to help find a solution to the suicide concerns for our Veteran Community. PTSD and depression are a serious problem facing our Soldiers and Airmen, especially in the National Guard. Our warriors need to know they are not fighting alone. We believe medical service dogs can be an unsung battle buddy for those needing help.



54 BY '24 SERVICE DOGS SAVE LIVES

Be a part of the solution!

Help end suicide among National Guard service members and Veterans nationwide by sponsoring service dogs in all 54 states and territories by 2024.

Together we can unleash...

- the power to **heal**
- the power of **hope**
- the power of **giving**

LEARN MORE

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**PRESS
RELEASE**



WHY 54 BY '24?

The Michigan National Guard and NGAM won the bid to host two national level, annual conferences in 2024, to be held in Detroit, MI: the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS). This will be the first time that these two professional organizations have held their conferences in the same city during the same year. The National Guard will bring more than 7,000 members and partners from every state and territory to Detroit to work on a better future for the National Guard.

Our goal is to be able to give back by working toward a better future for our Guardsmen suffering from suicidal ideations. With the entire nation in Detroit in 2024, each state and territory will leave with at least one Medical Service Dog sponsored and one life saved.

To do this, NGAM must raise \$1.35M; each dog costs \$25K for breeding, training, and pairing.



If you or your organization would like to be a part of the solution through a donation, sponsorship, fundraising, or matching contributions, please contact the NGAM Executive Director Jeff Frisby.

EANGUS

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) was created in 1970 by a group of senior NCO's, then formally organized and incorporated in 1972 in Jackson, MS. EANGUS represents all 54 states and territories, with a constituency base of over 414,000 Guardsmen, as well as thousands of retired members. EANGUS is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare, and professionalism of Enlisted members of the National Guard.

ABOUT EANGUS AND NGAUS

NGAUS

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), founded in 1878, is the nation's oldest military association. NGAUS serves as a full strategic partner with each state and territory association, and congressional delegation enabling effective communication of the message to continuously improve the relevance, readiness, modernization, and quality of life, while promoting the rich militia heritage of the National Guard.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

A 2018 Department of Defense suicide report demonstrated the unique challenge combating suicide has become for our service members and Veterans.

The suicide rate for active-duty members averages 24.8 deaths per 100,000 personnel; in the National Guard the death rate is 30.6 per 100,000 service members.

As a predominately part-time force, Guard members face stressors in both their military and civilian capacities that far too often go unnoticed due to the infrequent interactions with leaders or others that they feel can understand their struggles.

NGAM has resolved to be a part of the solution by raising awareness and sponsoring medical dogs nationwide.

Together we can help our service members suffering with mental health issues, specifically those with PTSD.