



# 2023

## REACHING AMERICA

INFLUENCE • IDEAS • ACTION

**ANNUAL REPORT**

JANUARY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

## COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBERS

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*Blue and Gold Star Family Partner*

**John Anderson**  
*Spring Creek Partners and Anderson Enterprises*

**John Coonradt**  
*USMC for Life*

**Rick Freedman**  
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**Colonel David Sutherland, U.S. Army (Ret.)**  
*Chairman*

**Edward Wenzel**  
*Edward Wenzel Associates*

**James E. Williams Jr.**  
*Nonprofit Executive SME*



## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to ensure veterans and military families can succeed where they live and that every organization, across all sectors of society, effectively integrate veterans and their families into their organization and existing programs.

We are a resource for individuals, organizations, and communities interested in the long-term wellbeing of veterans and their families. We use our influence, ideas, and actions to assist other organizations, who in turn integrate veterans and their families into their local activities. These organizations transform the lives of service members, veterans, and their families, ensuring they reach their full potential.

## OUR VISION

Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services will be the resource of choice for organizations from all sectors of society – public, private, social, and civic. We will be a conduit - with staying power as a member of The Fedcap Group - providing and coordinating technical assistance/training, resource sharing, and strong leadership for our partners, who, with our ongoing support share our noble purpose: to make the lives of veterans and their families better.

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER:

Reaching America is our tag line. When we started, I sent our logo to Latrese Dixon for her approval. She responded with our now tag line. She said, "Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services will be Reaching America."

She went on to say, "As a center, we will set conditions for service members when they return after deployment, when they reach America. We will reach America's spirit, and its desire to assist service members, veterans, and their families." I shared with her in 2012, that she captured the essence of our work as an organization addressing complex social issues, and systems change impacting veterans and their families in communities today by building public awareness, encouraging community involvement, and promoting community services.

Throughout 2023, we achieved more impact, more actions, and more accomplishments while Reaching America, as Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services continues to work with community-based organizations across the nation. We are providing these organizations with influence, ideas, and actions that they are using to address issues facing our military veterans and their families. These issues include solutions for affordable housing, energy, finance, wellness services, education, justice reform, poverty, and economic opportunities, etc.

Congratulations to our team working across the nation, our partners making a difference in communities where veterans live, and the veterans and their families impacted through the work of these partners.

In 2023, and looking forward, I recognize that the needs of veterans and their families are evolving, not disappearing.

As a "go to" resource for others, we remain committed to our mission as well as our noble purpose – to make the lives of veterans and their families better.

To this end, we will continue to prioritize our three pillars: Work with Purpose, Heal with Honor, and Live with Hope. We will emphasize and ensure we have the necessary resources to accomplish our 13 programs within these pillars.

Broadly speaking, we are striving to achieve our model of crisis prevention as opposed to one of crisis intervention.

Please join us, as you read through this annual report, and celebrate Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services' successes in 2023.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support.

Giddy up.



**Colonel David W. Sutherland**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Chairman



# Together, We Are Reaching America



## WHAT WE DO

At Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services we subscribe to a model of crisis prevention, rather than crisis intervention.

Because it is easier—and far more cost-effective—to stop trouble before it starts.

There are nearly 11 million organizations across all sectors of American society. If they all include military veterans and their families as employees, students, recipients of services and supports – those touched by military service will thrive. As a nation, we cannot rely on a small number of veteran serving organizations and government. It takes a whole of society approach. The good news is that there is no lack of will on the part of the American public. They want to help but they may not be sure how.

This is where Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services comes in—we are a resource for individuals, organizations, and communities interested in the long-term wellbeing of veterans and their families. We use our influence, ideas, and actions to assist other organizations, who in turn integrate veterans and their families into their local activities. These organizations transform the lives of service members, veterans, and their families, ensuring they reach their full potential.

We are the capacity builder.

We have provided assistance and support to community partners across three pillars, 13 programs, and nearly 500 projects over the past 10+ years, including 86 projects in 2023.



*The Center is a resource hub of influence, ideas, and actions. At the 2023 National Association of State Workforce Agencies Veterans Conference.*

*Colonel David Sutherland with SGM Michael J. Perry III.*



*Colonel Sam Whitehurst facilitating a panel discussion at the National State Workforce Agencies Veterans Conference.*



Our three pillars are:

### WORK WITH PURPOSE

Creating pathways to careers where veterans earn a family wage and have affordable healthcare and benefits. Careers that allow veterans to set and meet their future goals.

### HEAL WITH HONOR

Developing solutions that focus on the eight dimensions of wellness: mental, physical, social, environmental, occupational, spiritual, intellectual, and financial; ensuring that veterans and their families not only survive but thrive.

### LIVE WITH HOPE

Accessing affordable housing—living in a safe, secure, and comfortable environment in harmony with a local community where a veteran can function independently and contribute to society as a private citizen.

We're not the direct service provider that solves the problem.

We reach out to assist and increase the impact of those who do.



*Dixon Center partnering with Honor Court to make the lives of veterans and their families better.*

*Fostering, strengthening and expanding community-based connections to veterans. The Utility Workers Military Assistance Program is transforming the lives of veterans and their families.*







Dixon Center with the Utility Workers of America (UWUA) Executive Team and the UWUA Veterans Committee.



At Empowering Veterans NYC; Bringing together subject matter experts to address the unique wellness needs of student veterans at Columbia and Cornell Universities.



Civic Hall Grand Opening: Dixon Center is assisting Civic Hall, a leading tech training and learning center, integrate veterans and their families into their life-changing programs.

# CRAIG NEWMARK AUDITORIUM



Civic Hall grand opening

## 2023 IMPACT

- 158,000 Collaborative Partners
- Influenced 452,800 Organizations and Individuals
- Expanded our work with Government Agencies
- We've Gone International

**Approximately 3,213,000 Organizations and Individuals Since 2012**





## OUR WORK:

At Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, we strongly believe that the needs of veterans and their families are not disappearing, they are evolving. In 2023, we continued to Reach America, connecting with organizations in communities across the country. Through our influence, ideas, and actions we created impact for veterans and their families where they live.

In this 2023 Annual Report we will highlight a sampling of our 86 projects, implemented within our 13 programs, and nested under our 3 pillars.

### PILLAR 1 : WORK WITH PURPOSE

Employment for veterans isn't about finding a job. The problem is underemployment—not having enough work or enough pay or being in a job below what they are qualified for.

Nearly a third of job-seeking veterans are in this situation. Many live paycheck to paycheck. Dixon Center creates opportunities for them to find careers and develop the skills and the responsibility they desire and enjoy.

That's work with purpose—by assisting employers and educators with technical assistance and training, we are enabling veterans to support themselves and their families in a career that pays a family wage.

Since 2015, 19,566 transitioning service members and veterans have been trained, licensed/certified, and employed in careers with average starting wages over \$60,000 a year and opportunities for advancement. In 2023, Dixon Center assisted 4,205 service members/veterans receive training, licenses/certifications, and employment in the building trades and the transportation, utility, and maritime industries.

*A UMAP Student and Army Veteran; UMAP graduates are guaranteed employment by Peoples Gas, careers that provide meaningful wages, healthcare, benefits and opportunities for advancement—the definition of work with purpose.*



“Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services is an incredible partner & force multiplier in creating opportunities for my brother & sister veterans and their families.”

Honorable Patrick J. Murphy, 32nd Under Secretary of the Army

## PROGRAM: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER PLACEMENT

Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services is a proven leader in assisting organizations in recruiting, integrating, training, and retaining veterans and their families into their workforce. Dixon Center and our partners have been instrumental in the expanding efforts to provide career specific training across the country. Dixon Center has ensured that these programs provide a pathway into the middle class and ensured a level playing field with civilian counterparts.

### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

**American Legion and Task Force Movement 2023 Credentialing Summit:** Dixon Center organized, planned, and led the American Legion & Task Force Movement Credentialing Summit during the American Legion 2023 Convention. The summit included over 75 partnered organizations in labor, government, academia, the private sector, and the veteran community that shared ideas and best practices on creating opportunities for military-connected individuals in high-demand industries such as transportation and cybersecurity.



Utility Workers Military Assistance Program (UMAP) at Dawson Technical Institute in Chicago



Dixon Center exploring opportunities to collaborate with and support Civic Hall.

## UMAP/TMAP/VIP Veteran Workforce Training Programs

Dixon Center continued our unique relationship with labor unions in providing critical training that leads to middle and upper-middle class careers for veterans and their families. As part of the training curriculum for the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry (UA) Veterans in Piping Program (VIP), Utility Workers Military Assistance Program (UMAP), and the Teamsters Military Assistance Program (TMAP), Dixon Center has introduced transitioning service members and veterans to supportive services that assist with finding a home, financial counseling, physical and mental health support, legal services, and more. These employer-labor union partnerships and apprenticeships are a model for successful workforce development programs for veterans and their families.

**Civic Hall:** Through our influence and ideas, Dixon Center assisted one of our Fedcap Group partners, Civic Hall, develop a program that will train and integrate veterans into quality technology careers. Civic Hall, a state-of-the-art digital workforce training center in New York City is now postured to transform the lives of veterans and their families throughout New York City.





Dixon Center exploring innovative ways, such as virtual reality, to provide career skills training to transitioning service members and veterans.

## PROGRAM: VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

Engaging organizations and individuals that are creating entrepreneurship opportunities for veterans and their families—providing training solutions and how to access veterans. Also working with Financial Institutions and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI), Dixon Center has assisted in the access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs in at-risk communities. This includes supporting large banks and their partner CDFI efforts as they expand and refine outreach and access activities for veterans.

### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Minority Professional Truckers Association:** Dixon Center forged a partnership with the Minority Professional Truckers Association (MPTA). MPTA is a consortium of minority carriers and independent owners-operators whose goal is to ensure that their members are equipped with the tools necessary to be successful small business owners. Drawing upon our experience working with veteran entrepreneurs, Dixon Center provided MPTA with the tools to build a veteran program and design an owner-operator academy to ensure their members are armed with the knowledge to be successful entrepreneurs.

Dixon Center leading a panel discussion at the National State Workforce Agencies Veterans Conference.



“Dixon Center’s insight and knowledge of the veteran community has greatly assisted us in better serving our members and successfully integrating veterans and their families into our programs.”

**Teresa Watson,  
Director, Minority Professional Truckers Association**

## PILLAR 2 : HEAL WITH HONOR

No question, some veterans face tough challenges— some as a result of war trauma. America has seen an epidemic of veterans dying by suicide, a sharp rise in opioid addiction, and other serious health issues impacting those touched by military service.

But Dixon Center rejects the narrative of the broken veteran.

Our emphasis is on the positive. We are working with organizations able to support veterans to heal with honor. We partner with local and national organizations to help them find and focus on the overall well-being of veterans and their families. We help them develop programs that work, making them even more impactful.



Featured and inspiring, Fedcap Gala speaker, Jennifer Grubb, US Army veteran, advocate, nurse, wife and mother



U.S. Army Veteran, Jennifer Grubb and husband, Josh







*In southern California addressing the impact that veteran suicide has on families and our communities. Dixon Center is a recognized and visible network and voice for military and veteran services.*

“Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services’ willingness to go to the grassroots communities and be effective and true ambassadors on behalf of our veterans who are dealing with or have succumbed to the invisible wounds of war is vital. Furthermore, it mitigates the cascading impact on friends and families.”

**Anne Dunsmore, Founder & President, Angel Force USA**

## PROGRAM: A CLEARINGHOUSE:

Since 2012, the Center’s team of experts have been helping communities, organizations, and individuals find strategic, practical solutions for the most challenging issues facing today’s veterans and military families. The Center has been building a national network of community-based programs, and learning which grassroots solutions are working and which ones are not. As a result, Dixon Center is the “go-to” resource for service-minded individuals, organizations, donors, and those who want veterans to reach their potential and participate fully in their communities.

### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT

**Angel Force USA:** Over the last year, Dixon Center has deployed our network of community-based organizations in assisting our partner, Angel Force USA raise awareness of the continuing toll that suicide takes on veterans and their families. Angel Force USA is dedicated to educating, entertaining, and empowering communities across the country. At events throughout the year, Dixon Center organized, identified and recruited partnering organizations and led discussions and presentations that emphasized community-based solutions in addressing the isolation and disconnection that burdens so many veterans.

*With Angel Force USA at the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration. Over the course of three days, we connected with hundreds of veterans and their families.*







At the American Legion National Convention in August, Dixon Center leading a day of discussions on creating pathways into work with purpose; careers that provide both purpose and salaries that allow veterans and their families to build a future around.

“Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services is our go-to resource in understanding the veteran community, connecting with other partners, and creating employment opportunities for veterans and their families.”

Craig Stenning, Executive Director, Community Work Services

### PROGRAM: FINANCIAL WELLNESS:

Working with institutions, departments, agencies, and nonprofits, we help them find and focus on veterans and their families, so they achieve satisfaction with their current and future financial situation.

#### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT

**Coordinated Assistance Network:** Dixon Center provided strategic guidance, counsel and support to our long-standing partner, Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN). We introduced CAN to partners to extend their reach and capacity and we collaborated with them on ideas to promote our services to funders to address issues such as mental health, financial insecurity, etc.



Craig Stenning and Colonel Duncan Milne

### PROGRAM: EMOTIONAL WELLNESS:

Leveraging community-based organizations, we share resources and solutions that help them integrate veterans into their programs to help veterans and their families cope effectively with life and create satisfying relationships.

#### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT

**Texas Veteran + Family Alliance and Easter Seals Greater Houston Collaborative:** Since 2016, as a member of the Texas Veteran + Family Alliance and Easter Seals Greater Houston Collaborative, Dixon Center has led, planned, and executed a convening of veteran organizations that provide an array of mental health services as well as other support services. This is an opportunity for these organizations to share best practices and develop solutions to effectively deliver services to veterans and their families in southeastern Texas.

**Project Atomic Habits:** Dixon Center has been partnering with many veteran serving organizations in providing the breakthrough book, *Atomic Habits*, to veterans across the country. One of the many ways that Dixon Center is enabling veterans to reach their full potential.

TMAP and UMAP participants and instructors with Atomic Habits.



Honorable Judge Taryn Health sharing Atomic Habits with Honor Court participants.







*Dixon Center recognized the importance this film would have in promoting the importance of social wellness in addressing isolation and disconnection among veterans.*

**PROGRAM: Social Wellness:**

Building capacity with direct-service providers and assisting them in sustaining programs that increase outreach, resulting in veterans achieving a sense of connection, belonging and a well-developed support system.

**PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT**

**Mending the Line:** Dixon Center employed our influence, ideas, and actions to expand the reach of the important film, “Mending the Line”—a story about the importance of social connections and how veterans from different generations can come together to heal with honor from their war trauma.

We organized panel discussions, introduced the producers of the film to organizations throughout our network, and introduced the film to active-duty U.S. service members serving in Poland.

**PROGRAM: SPIRITUAL WELLNESS:**

Assisting organizations, programs, and communities to integrate veterans and their families to expand a sense of purpose and meaning in life.

*With the support of the Kaplan Public Service Foundation, we were able to carry our focus on wellness to U.S. service members serving in Poland.*



*With the incredible team at PsychArmor. In March, Dixon Center led a leadership seminar that focused on maximizing the potential of this organization in serving veterans and their families.*

**PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT**

**PsychArmor:** Dixon Center organized and led a leadership development forum with one of our long-standing partners, PsychArmor. The result was the development of a strategy to elevate their work in providing training and education that creates a sense of purpose and direction for veterans and their families and assists employers better understand and connect with their veteran employees.



## PROGRAM: OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS:

Working with employers, Dixon Center provides actions to expand veteran diversity and inclusion in the workplace, resulting in veterans achieving personal satisfaction and enrichment derived from their work.

### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT

**Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) 32nd Constitutional Convention:** Dixon Center engaged with hundreds of UWUA leaders and members from union organizations across the country and shared innovative strategies on how to best integrate veterans and their families into the UWUA's program, organizations, and their communities. We also reconnected and strengthened our relationship with the UWUA's Veteran Committee and successfully advocated for a veteran-focused resolution that reinforced the UWUA's commitment to our veterans and their families.



Dixon Center with President James Slevin and his executive team at the Utility Workers Union of America 32nd Constitutional Convention in July.

## PROGRAM: PHYSICAL WELLNESS:

Increasing the capacity of organizations and programs that promote a healthy, active lifestyle and habits focused on nutrition and exercise. Also enabling healthcare providers and developing technology to increase access to quality healthcare as well as access and control of their own comprehensive health/medical information.

### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT

**Childs Play Challenge Course:** Dixon Center employed our influences and ideas in assisting Child's Play Challenge Course, a successful small business in New Jersey, connect with veterans and military spouses for potential franchise opportunities. We leveraged the importance of an active lifestyle to veterans and made recommendations to their business model that would attract veteran entrepreneurs and ensure that prospective franchisees were equipped and trained to navigate the challenges of being a small business owner.



Child's Play Challenge Course Founders, Matt and Lauren Borawski; with Dixon Center's assistance, they are creating entrepreneurship opportunities for veterans and military spouses that focus on a healthy lifestyle.







Dixon Center Team facilitating a conversation on the importance of mental health and wellness with student veterans from Columbia and Cornell University in November.



### PROGRAM: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS:

Assisting educators, institutions, and training facilities create opportunities for veterans and their families so they improve their creative abilities and finding ways to expand their knowledge and skills.

#### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHT

**Executive Student Veterans of America:** As part of honoring Veterans Day, Dixon Center planned, organized, and led a panel on mental health and emotional wellness as part of the Executive Student Veterans Association Empowering Veterans Summit at Columbia University in New York City. These discussions contributed to the overall theme of the Summit on creating holistic solutions to the challenges that student veterans face as they enter the workforce.

### PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL WELLNESS:

Working with communities to address basic needs assistance for at risk veterans facing difficulties to ensure they live in good health by occupying environments that support their overall well-being.

#### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Veterans Forward:** Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services assisted Veterans Forward, a program of Fedcap Serving Maine, on a range of issues from resource development, mentoring, raising awareness, and community outreach. Veterans Forward, addresses housing stabilization, employment, and financial assistance to Veterans and has become a key leader in addressing the needs of underserved veterans and their families in the State of Maine.

### PILLAR 3 : LIVE WITH HOPE

Dixon Center envisions all-embracing change for veterans—through work, wellness, and ultimately the chance to live with hope.

This requires affordable housing—a place of their own. America has over 33,000 homeless veterans, with another 1.5 million living on the edge, at or below the poverty line.

Dixon Center works with local and national partners to prevent veterans from becoming homeless or provide affordable housing solutions. What's more, our network of partners strives to address the housing crisis by creating a community of support. These include support for food security, safe housing, public health, and crisis relief.

With this national network, we are giving veterans an opportunity— not just to survive, but to thrive.



Dixon Center at the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans Annual Conference.



Another valued Fedcap Partner, Serena Powell and Veterans Forward. In June, we connected them with the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans.

## PROGRAM: HOUSING:

Working with organizations that can enable veterans and their families into a secure, safe and permanent home of their own. Not just a dwelling place, but a home in a community that values their potential.

### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

**United Methodist Communities (UMC):** In wanting to improve its inclusion of veterans into its organization, UMC turned to Dixon Center for expertise on how to engage with aging veterans in need of long-term care services and how to leverage residents at its various communities to enhance a culture more favorable to veterans. Dixon Center provided strategic recommendations and connected them to Soldier On to collaborate on care coordination for older veterans requiring independent and assisted living.

**Freddie Mac:** Dixon Center continues to assist in the strategic development of the relationship between Freddie Mac, a leader in the U.S. housing market in making homeownership and rentals accessible and affordable, and Soldier On. This collaboration has resulted in increased access to mortgage counseling and home ownership for thousands of veterans and military families from the end of 2018 through 2023.

## PROGRAM: BASIC NEEDS:

Basic needs are a minimal list of elements that people need to fulfill basic requirements and achieve a decent life. Typically, the list includes basic commodities, such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as essential services, such as access to drinking water, to sanitation, to education, to healthcare facilities, and to public transportation. We are focused on support for food security, safe housing, public health, and crisis relief.



*Connecting the Army's Soldier for Life program with formerly homeless veterans. An opportunity for those shaping current Dept. of Defense programs supporting veterans to better understand the challenges and needs of veterans from all eras.*



*Geographic Distribution of Women Veteran Aid Recipients (2014-2023)*

### PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Women Veterans:** Since 2015, Dixon Center, through our Women Veterans Program, has recognized the unique challenges that women veterans face reintegrating back into their communities and the need to rapidly address crisis situations. Providing women veterans, a “hand-up” became even more important, as Dixon Center encountered an unprecedented number of women veterans seeking assistance during the economic uncertainty of the past year.

In 2023, Dixon Center has provided assistance to 140 women veterans. This assistance included connecting them with resources and organizations that helped them with budgeting, finding food assistance, and more. Of this number, 60 also received financial emergency assistance as well.

“Thank you all so much for this. There aren’t enough words to express my gratitude. I’m humbled by this (assistance) and I do truly appreciate you all. You’re a true blessing. It’s difficult not to start bawling... if you all only knew how much this means to me - thank you, ma’am.”

Very Respectfully, MS, US Army Veteran





Memorial Day 2023: Honoring veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice; Green Hills Memorial Park, Los Angeles, CA; Fort Mill, SC; National Salute HYUNDAI Air & Sea Show, Miami, FL







A.J. Jones, Colonel Duncan Milne, Brian Cummings, and Serena Powell of Veteran's Forward, Maine, recognizing Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services.

## RECOGNITION:

### DIXON CENTER FOR MILITARY AND VETERANS SERVICES NAMED INAUGURAL VETERANS FORWARD "LEANING FORWARD" HONOREE

Veterans Forward is a program under Fedcap Serving Maine, empowering Maine's veterans, service members, and their families and assisting them in navigating to a brighter future. By offering tailored support to address each veteran's specific needs, Veterans Forward strives to eliminate any hindrances to their health, safety, and overall well-being. With a commitment to filling in the gaps in care left by other resources, Veterans Forward is honored to serve the veteran community in Maine with unwavering dedication.

Colonel Duncan Milne, USMC (Ret.), President of Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services, was recognized as the inaugural recipient of their "Leaning Forward" award. The award is recognition of Dixon Center's work with Veterans Forward providing leadership, mentoring, resource development, and raising awareness of their solutions that address the current and evolving challenges facing Maine's veterans and their families.



Robert J. McCann (center)



Colonel Kaname "Kenny" Kuniyuki, US Army (Ret.)

### THE 2023-25 ROBERT J. MCCANN PROGRAM & IMPACT ASSESSMENT FELLOWSHIP

Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services has established the Robert J. McCann Program and Impact Assessment Fellowship. The fellowship is named in honor of Mr. McCann, a World War II Navy veteran. Mr. McCann was a native of Pittsburgh, PA who raised two sons and was a lifelong advocate for our nation's veterans and their families.

The Robert J. McCann Program and Impact Assessment Fellowship awards PhD candidates conducting research on topics relative to the emerging needs of veterans and their families. To support the student's commitment to furthering research the program offers an annual stipend.

The 2023 – 2025 Robert J. McCann Program and Impact Assessment Fellow is United States Army Retired Colonel Kaname "Kenny" Kuniyuki. Kenny is pursuing his PhD at the University of Dayton.

Colonel Kaname Kuniyuki, US Army (Ret.) employed quantitative analytical tools to elucidate and contextualize the Dixon Center's support for women veterans over the past eight years. He played a crucial role evaluating grant applications and conducting research on various veteran-related issues, with a specific focus on those affecting women veterans. Concurrently, he pursued his doctoral studies at the University of Dayton, concentrating on organizational theory, research methods, ethics, and topics pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**"It has been a rewarding experience contributing research to the Dixon Centers's many projects."**

**Colonel Kaname "Kenny" Kuniyuki, US Army (Ret.)**





Eugene and Ruth Freedman

### EUGENE AND RUTH FREEDMAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award is named in honor of philanthropists and business leaders Eugene and Ruth Freedman. The couple's lifetime of philanthropy has made a positive difference in the lives of untold numbers of veterans across the country.

This award is presented annually by Dixon Center to recognize outstanding organizations committed to the well-being of veterans and their families. Previous recipients include Prudential, PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc., the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Utility Workers Union of America, UBS, and iHeart Media.



2023: Hope for the Warriors

### 2023: Hope for the Warriors

Dixon Center honored Hope for the Warriors with this award in recognition of the organization's commitment to addressing the well-being of veterans and military families. Hope for the Warriors is a true partner with Dixon Center and is passionate in their delivery of, and delivery to services for veterans and their families on some of the most pressing issues facing veterans today. Hope for the Warriors is committed to creating a more supportive world for veterans returning home and to connecting veterans and their families with communities, resources, programs and care that support their different wellness needs and that are contributing to their overall wellbeing. Hope for the Warriors is living up to their mantra of restoring a foundation of strength, stability, and community since 2006.



Carolyn and Herbert Metzger

### CAROLYN AND HERBERT METZGER SERVICE AWARD

The Carolyn and Herbert Metzger Service Award is named for Carolyn and Herb Metzger and the example they set in living a purpose-driven life. This award is presented annually by Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services to recognize outstanding individuals committed to addressing the well-being of veterans and military families. Previous recipients include Mr. Rick Freedman and his family, Mr. Michael "Mick" Yauger, Mr. Tim Thorne, Mr. John Anderson, and Mrs. Latrese Dixon.



2023: Mrs. Jennifer Grubb

### 2023: Mrs. Jennifer Grubb

Jennifer Grubb is a US Army Afghanistan Combat Veteran. She is a Registered Nurse. Most importantly, she is Josh's wife and the mother of three amazing children.

Following a year of combat while serving Afghanistan as a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Jennifer returned home - yet she continued to fight her own internal battles. Jennifer's war trauma led to her bravely overcoming homelessness, loneliness and isolation, suicidal ideations, and self-medication with prescription and nonprescription drugs. As a result of her post traumatic growth, she is committed to her fellow veterans and their families - Jennifer has dedicated her life to giving back and helping others.



Michael "Mick" Yauger

### MICHAEL "MICK" YAUGER POINT MAN AWARD

In an Army formation on patrol, the point man takes responsibility for others and assists them as they move through challenging terrain. This particular award, named for that role and responsibilities and in honor of Michael "Mick" Yauger, recognizes the recipient's forward leadership in supporting others through challenging times and/or transitions. Previous recipients include 1SG Timothy Englund, Mr. Richard "Rick" Passarelli, Mr. Frank Christensen, and Staff Sergeant Leon Mangum, US Army (Ret.).



2023: The Honorable Patrick J. Murphy

### 2023: The Honorable Patrick J. Murphy – Chairman, Task Force Movement

Patrick has served our nation in one role after another—as a soldier, as America's first Iraq War veteran elected to the U.S. Congress, and as the 32nd Under Secretary of the Army. Today, as an entrepreneur and advocate, Patrick harnesses the power of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to help veterans find jobs, start businesses, and secure quality health care and mental health services. Today, Patrick chairs Task Force Movement which aims to bring military life cycle experts, industry stakeholders inclusive to Employers and Associations, VSO's Academic and Vocational Training Institutions, State and Federal governing bodies, and Armed Forces together to create recommendations and quickly operationalize solutions to advance safe and responsible career pathways for transitioning service members and veterans across the country entering the civilian workforce.



Lou Lowenkron

### LOU LOWENKRON COMMITMENT TO VETERANS EXCELLENCE AWARD:

This award is named in honor of US Army veteran, philanthropist, and business leader, Lou Lowenkron. Lou's life of service, philanthropy and leadership has transformed the lives of untold numbers of people across the country, especially veterans and their families. Similar to Lou's service, this annual award recognizes a training or education institution that is making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. The previous recipients were City Colleges of Chicago and No Greater Sacrifice Foundation.



FourBlock

### 2023: FourBlock

Dixon Center was privileged to present FourBlock with the Lou Lowenkron commitment to Veterans Excellence Award. FourBlock bridges the divide between transitioning veterans and the business community. FourBlock is a nation-wide community of veterans and employers dedicated to transforming the veteran transition process. As an innovator, FourBlock looks beyond transition to equip our veterans to achieve their potential. They look beyond landing jobs to equip our veterans to pursue careers that fit their calling. They look beyond the now and are shaping the future for a new generation of veterans. Their programs focus on building meaningful professional relationships and prepare veterans for a successful military transition through their comprehensive suite of in-person and online career readiness programming for veterans including their Veteran Career Readiness Program, Find Your Calling Online Course, and their Military Spouse Career Readiness Program.





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The International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) has been one of Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services strongest partners since 2016. Together, our partnership has contributed to many opportunities for veterans across the nation, as we have continued to develop programs beyond the building trades. The IUEC has provided enduring support as a passionate partner, major donor and powerful advocate of veterans and military families as a leader in our noble purpose to make the lives of our veterans and their families better. Thank you to Frank Christensen, General President, the Executive Board, the leadership, the locals, and all the members of the International Union of Elevator Constructors have provided outstanding and ongoing leadership and commitment to those touched by military service.

**We appreciate your support.  
Your donations change  
the lives of veterans and  
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This list reflects support from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. If you contributed a gift during that time, and your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled, we sincerely apologize. We request that you please contact Vanessa Stergios at [vstergios@dixoncenter.org](mailto:vstergios@dixoncenter.org) so that we may include it in future listings.





Supporting our Fedcap partners, Easter Seals New York in promoting economic empowerment in New York state.

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Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services is a member of The Fedcap Group, a global network of top-tier nonprofit agencies. The Fedcap Group serves as the fiscal agent for Dixon Center and as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and provides our back-office support. This includes human resources, finance and accounting, legal services, information technology and many other functions.

The Fedcap Group is committed to promoting transparency and integrity in its fiscal practice and we are proud of its GuideStar recognition with the 2023 Gold Seal of Transparency. Dixon Center's operating highlights are part of The Fedcap Group's comprehensive financial statement package. Based on audited financial statements ending September 30, 2022, 88% of Fedcap's total expenditures went directly toward programming. This demonstrates that The Fedcap Group is an effective steward of its resources.

To receive a copy of The Fedcap Group's audited financial statements, please contact Vanessa Stergios at [vsstergios@dixoncenter.org](mailto:vsstergios@dixoncenter.org).

## JOIN US

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of veterans and military families.

**CONNECT.** Are you interested in one of these three focus areas: Work with Purpose, Heal with Honor, and Live with Hope? Reach out to us and explore how you can impact veterans and military families.

**DONATE** financial gifts or in-kind contributions. You will be more than a donor. You will be a key partner in enabling better lives for veterans and military families.

**INSPIRE AND EDUCATE.** Our leadership offers unparalleled expertise and proven skill in captivating audiences and drawing attention to issues about veterans and military service. Book us for speaking engagements at conferences, meetings, and retreats.

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DCMVS team member Sara Heidenheimer and her husband, Chief Petty Officer JG Heidenheimer, USN, (Ret.) and sons Zachary and Ryan, Retirement Ceremony from the U.S Navy after 20 1/2 years of service.



Dixon Center team members at Fedcap Gala

## OUR COMMITMENT

**WE LISTEN** – We know that the needs of our veterans are evolving, not disappearing.

**WE COLLABORATE** – We believe that every organization and individual can effectively integrate veterans and their families into their existing community-based programs.

**WE ADAPT** – We know that every veteran, military member, and their families are unique, and we respect and honor their differences by remaining flexible in our response.

**WE RESPOND** – We work with others to develop and deploy solutions before problems become a crisis.

**WE PERSEVERE** – We know the importance of never giving up on our veterans and their families to ensure they reach their full potential.

**WE ARE TRANSPARENT** – We are disciplined in our fiscal responsibility, with regular disclosures about financial and operational performance and impact.

Dixon Center holiday party



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Dixon Center achieves our mission through the efforts of 250 employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers and ambassadors.

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c/o The Fedcap Group  
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## **A FITTING TRIBUTE**

Dixon Center takes its name from an American hero, Army Staff Sergeant Donnie Dixon. He was killed in action while serving in Iraq in 2007, dying as he had lived—an inspiration to those who served with him. Dixon Center isn't named in memory of Donnie. It's named to honor his values—loyalty and duty, respect and honor, integrity and courage. Qualities that America's military holds dear.