

The Brain Injury Association of New York State's Hero of Hope Award is presented in recognition of distinguished military service and commitment to increasing public understanding of brain injury.



Hero of Hope Award
Paws of War

Since its founding in 2014, Paws of War has been dedicated to ensuring that no hero fights their battles alone, whether they walk on two legs or four. Guided by compassion and courage, the organization provides vital support to veterans, first responders, and military personnel living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), and other invisible wounds of service, while rescuing and rehabilitating animals in need.

Under the leadership of Robert Misseri, Paws of War has grown into a national lifeline. Each day, the organization rescues dogs and often trains them as service animals to help veterans and first responders regain independence, hope, and dignity. The internationally acclaimed War-Torn Pups Program has reunited more than 700 animals with the U.S. service members who rescued them overseas, providing comfort and restoring bonds that can be critical for survival.

The organization's impact is profound: more than 5,000 animals rescued, over 800 placed in loving homes, and more than 950 veterans and first responders directly served. Paws of War also provides mobile veterinary clinics, emergency foster care, disaster response support, and lifetime care for military working dogs, ensuring the promise of healing and hope reaches every corner of the community it serves.

In recognition of these efforts, The Brain Injury Association of New York State proudly honors Paws of War with the Hero of Hope Award, celebrating its distinguished military service and tireless commitment to increasing public understanding of brain injury. Through every rescue, every match, and every mission, Paws of War proves that healing, hope, and love truly work both ways.
