

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PGA HOPE Expands Veteran Outreach Program with New Locations and Partnerships**

**Trussville, AL, October 1, 2024** – PGA HOPE (*Helping Our Patriots Everywhere*) is a flagship program of **PGA REACH**. PGA HOPE is expanding its outreach efforts to support veterans across the United States by adding **50 new locations** to its growing network. This expansion is part of a growing nationwide trend to provide **adaptive golf therapy** to over **20,000 United States military veterans** in 2024. PGA HOPE has been praised for its ability to improve the mental and physical health of our veterans through the therapeutic benefits found in **golf**, especially for those suffering from **PTSD, physical disabilities, and mental health challenges**.

PGA HOPE provides **free six to eight-week golf training programs** led by PGA professionals trained in **adaptive golf techniques**. The programs offer veterans an opportunity to improve their **health and well-being**, build camaraderie, and participate in a **challenging and rehabilitative sport**.

*"PGA HOPE has become a vital resource for veterans seeking to reconnect with themselves and others,"* said Jonathan Matlock, a PGA HOPE spokesperson and veteran participant. *"The overall benefits of this program go beyond playing golf. It's about creating a supportive community where veterans can thrive."*

### **Expansion and Partnerships**

The new locations will span **12 states**, giving veterans in rural and urban areas more access to the program. This growth is fueled by a partnership with the **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**, which will provide direct referrals to PGA HOPE as

part of its therapeutic offerings. In addition, **DIRECTV** has partnered with PGA HOPE to help support **mental health awareness** for veterans and active-duty military personnel. This support strengthens the program's ability to reach veterans who would benefit from golf therapy.

To find a PGA HOPE location near you or to learn more about the program, visit [www.pgahope.com/locations](http://www.pgahope.com/locations). Veterans and families interested in signing up for the program can also check out fellow veterans' video testimonials and success stories at [www.pgahope.com/stories](http://www.pgahope.com/stories).

### **About PGA HOPE**

**PGA HOPE**, a pillar of the PGA REACH Foundation, is dedicated to helping veterans and active-duty military personnel enhance their well-being through golf. PGA HOPE operates in over **500 locations** across the United States, with over **3,000 PGA professionals** trained to deliver **adaptive golf instruction** to veterans. The program is designed to help participants build physical skills while fostering mental health recovery through community and sport.

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### **Blog Post**

**How PGA HOPE Helped Me Rebuild My Life**

Hello everyone,

My name is **Jonathan Matlock**. I am a **United States Marine Corps veteran** and a participant in the **PGA HOPE program**. I wanted to take a moment to share how this remarkable program has helped me rebuild my life and reconnect with a sport I love.

After leaving the military, I struggled with many aspects of my mental health. The transition to civilian life wasn't easy, and like many other veterans, I found myself battling **PTSD** as well as physical injuries. I felt lost and disconnected from the world around me. All that changed when I found PGA HOPE.

The moment I stepped onto the golf course, something clicked. **Golf** gave me a new challenge—something to focus on that didn't involve the stress I battled with every day. But more than that, it gave me a **community**—a group of veterans who understood what I was going through and a team of **PGA professionals** committed to helping us succeed. The six-week PGA HOPE program wasn't just about learning golf; it was about **healing**.

I encourage every veteran who's reading this to give **PGA HOPE** a try. Whether you're an experienced golfer or have never picked up a club, there's a place for you here. The support you'll find is like nothing else. It's not just about hitting balls on the range or learning the perfect swing—it's about rebuilding yourself and finding joy again. If you or someone you know could benefit from PGA HOPE, visit [www.pgahope.com](http://www.pgahope.com) and learn how to get involved.

I can't wait to see you out there on the course. Together, we can heal, one swing at a time.

**Jonathan Matlock**

Veteran and PGA HOPE Participant