

WELCOME HOME  
DINNER FOR OUR  
**VIETNAM VETERANS**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

3PM - 7PM

THE RESERVE EVENT CENTER, 2345 EQUUS HLS DR,  
PINCKNEY, MI 48169

TICKET PRICES TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON  
NUMBER OF SPONSORSHIPS

PROFITS TO GO TO  
BUCKET LIST DREAMS FOR VETERANS



# FIRST ANNUAL WELCOME HOME DINNER FOR OUR VIETNAM VETERENS FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Dinner location: Horse Feather Kitchen & Cocktails, The Reserve Event Center  
2345 Equus Hls Dr, Pinckney, MI 48169

Your sponsorship will assist with lowering the ticket costs for our Vietnam Veterans and raise funds for Bucket List of Dreams.

## Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

**Title Sponsor** **\$2000.00**

Title sponsor for the Welcome Home Dinner for our Vietnam Veterans Presented by Iron Butterfly, PLLC, Horse Feathers Kitchen & Cocktails and Bucket List Dreams for Veterans:

1. Large Name/Logo on all printed material and social media page.
2. Large Name/Logo displayed predominately on all event posters and flyers.
3. Large Name/Logo on all promotional items, not limited to but including event shirts.
4. Name mentions on all radio, TV, written interviews, and at the dinner presentation.
5. Name/Logo on opening page of event website with link to sponsor website.
6. 8 free event dinner tickets – 1 table (value \$320.00).
7. 8 free shirts.

**Platinum Sponsor** **\$1000.00**

1. Medium Name/Logo on all printed materials, including posters, flyers and social media page.
2. Medium Name/Logo on all promotional items, not limited to but including event shirts.
3. Name mentions in all radio, TV and written interviews and at the dinner presentation.
4. Name/Logo on event website with link to sponsor website.
5. Additional signage throughout the event (provided by you).
6. 4 free events dinner tickets (value \$160.00).

**Gold Sponsor**

**\$500.00**

1. Small Name/Logo on all print materials, including posters, flyers and social media page.
2. Name/Logo on event shirts.
3. Name at dinner presentation.
4. Name/Logo on event website with link to sponsor website.
5. Additional signage throughout the event (provided by you).

**Silver Sponsor**

**\$250.00**

1. Small Name/Logo on Posters.
2. Small Name/Logo on event posters and on social media.
3. Name mentioned at dinner presentation.
4. Additional signage throughout the event (provided by you).

**Supporting Sponsor**

**\$100.00**

1. Name mention at dinner presentation
2. Additional signage throughout the event (provided by you).

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:      **Bucket List Dreams, Inc.**

Mail check to:                **Shelly Simionescu, 6122 W. M36, Pinckney, MI 48169**

Contacts us at:

Email: [ironbutterfly593@gmail.com](mailto:ironbutterfly593@gmail.com)

Cell: Shelly Simionescu

248-229-7399



# APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUNDS

## **BUCKET LIST DREAMS, INC.**

A Michigan 501(c)(3) Corporation

*Fulfilling The Dreams of Veterans*



### **Application Contents**

Bucket List Support Team ...	Page 2
Articles of Organization ...	Page 3
IRS Nonprofit Status ...	Page 4
History ...	Page 5
Mission Statement ...	Page 5
News Article ...	Page 6
Our Past, Present and Future ...	Page 7
Funds Sought ...	Page 10

### **Contact:**

**Bucket List Dreams, Inc.**

431 E. Elm Ave.

Monroe, MI 48162

Phone - Gary Banning - (734) 497-6308

Email - [veteransbucketlist@gmail.com](mailto:veteransbucketlist@gmail.com)

Website - [www.veteransbucketlistdreams.org](http://www.veteransbucketlistdreams.org)

**Bucket List Dreams, Inc.  
Support Team**

A Michigan 501(c)(3) Corporation  
State of Michigan Identification #802503138  
Internal Revenue Tax Identification #85-2497330

**Founder and Secretary**  
Bruce W. Banning  
*United States Navy Veteran (Vietnam)*

**Chairman of the Board**  
Lt. Col. Michael Oetjens  
*Active Duty United States Air Force*

**Legal Council**  
Peter Fales  
315 S. Monroe St.  
Monroe, MI 48161  
(734)242-8040

**CPA/Accounting/Tax Advisor**  
Calkins, Hehl, Rafko CPAs, PLLC  
Matt Hehl  
1 S. Monroe St.  
Monroe, MI 48161  
(734) 241-7200

**Website**  
*[www.veteransbucketlistdreams.org](http://www.veteransbucketlistdreams.org)*

## **History**

Bucket List Dreams, Inc. (BLD) is a 501(c)(3) Michigan Nonprofit corporation operating from 431 E. Elm Ave. in Monroe, Michigan.

BLD was founded by Monroe native and Vietnam veteran, Bruce Banning. BLD is yet another effort on Bruce's part to help heal the wounds of his fellow vets. In Monroe, Bruce was chairman of the Monroe County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on N. Dixie Hwy. Bruce is a Charter Member of Vietnam Veterans of America and served two terms as the organizations President. Under his leadership, Monroe County was recognized as the fastest growing chapter in the country. Bruce led the Huey Helicopter Project in Heck Park. Furthermore, he worked for the Veterans Administration as a subcontractor doing Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling. Bruce is a life member of the Monroe Post of the VFW and also Monroe Chapter 142 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Bruce is joined on the BLD Board of Directors by his brother, Gary Banning, a lifelong resident of Monroe and graduate of the University of Michigan. The Board is led by Chairman, Lt. Col. Michael Oetjens (active duty Air Force). The Oetjens family also has a long history in Monroe. Other Board members are scattered across southern Michigan including one other active military member, Captain Elisabeth Page-Pettaway, U.S. Air Force.

### **Mission Statement**

Bucket List Dreams will recognize those who chose to serve in the U.S. military and to celebrate their lives by providing opportunities for individual veterans to fulfill a Bucket List Dream.

Bucket List Dreams exists to provide life-changing and meaningful experiences for as many veterans as possible because we recognize the healing power and fulfillment which accompanies personal achievement. Further, BLD knows that bringing the "fun" associated with accomplishment to lives, that may not otherwise be in a position to pursue a life-long dream, is extremely powerful.

# LOCAL & STATE

Ray Klisonas, regional editor  
(734) 240-5778  
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## Non-profit Bucket List Dreams opens home office in Monroe

Monroe News Staff Report

Bucket List Dreams, a new non-profit organization dedicated to US Military Veterans, recently opened their home office in Monroe.

The office is located at 431 East Elm Street. The organization's mission statement is "to recognize and celebrate those who choose to serve in the U.S. Military by providing opportunities for Veterans to fulfill a Bucket List Dream."

The idea for the non-profit was initiated by Bruce Banning, a Vietnam Veteran and former Monroe resident who now lives in Jackson.

Banning is a cancer survivor who spent a large part of a year in treatment at the VA. While there, he talked with

many fellow Veterans. As he listened to their life stories, he began to realize how many Vets, for a wide variety of reasons, had either 'dumped out' their Bucket Lists or may not have had one, thinking that fulfillment was not possible. These conversations inspired Bruce to find a way to help some of his fellow Veterans and thus 'Bucket List Dreams' was born. Bruce spoke about the idea to close friends, family and the non-profit quickly found start-up funding.

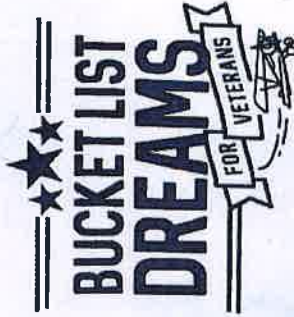
"Bravo Zulu" is an old military term meaning 'a job well done.' This is the essence of Bucket List Dreams; to recognize, to appreciate and to celebrate the lives of 'servers'... people who step up and give of themselves via military service. Any Veteran can be a potential candidate for a Bucket List Dream, regardless of where they served or what they did. The only requirements are that they served honorably and, for what-

their website at [veteranbucketlistdreams.org](http://veteranbucketlistdreams.org) or their Facebook page to learn more about the organization and to follow the stories of veterans selected to check off a Bucket List Dream.

Bucket List Dreams is also raising funds through the sale of BLD-branded merchandise on their website, as well as a signature brand of coffee known as Bucket List Beans.

Finally, BLD is currently repurposing a vintage camper into the first 'Bucket List Beans Mobile Canteen' which will soon be traveling to events bringing the Bucket List Dreams message and coffee brand to the masses. All proceeds go directly to funding more Bucket List Dreams. The non-profit has also started a GoFundMe campaign as they continue to raise donations for the fulfillment of Veterans' bucket list dreams.

For more information, visit [veteranbucketlistdreams.org](http://veteranbucketlistdreams.org).



Bucket List Dreams logo. PROVIDED

ever reason, have not been able to fulfill their Bucket List Dreams.

Bucket List Dreams has developed a network of veterans and service organizations from which recipients will be selected. BLD is accepting donations from the public, as well as corporations. Visit

## **Our Past, Present and Future**

### **PAST**

Requirements to receive a dream are simple: A U.S. veteran only has to be Honorably Discharged and have an unfulfilled Bucket List dream.

BLD funds veteran's dreams through donations, fundraisers and the sale of apparel and our signature coffees, Bucket List Beans. Sales of coffee largely takes place via our Korean War style concession trailer, the Bucket List Beans Mobile Canteen, a 1964 Airstream conversion.

Recipients can come from anywhere in the continental United States. Our recipients to date, however, have largely come from southeastern Michigan. Our ultimate goal is to build an organization capable of reaching across the country.

In our first year we accomplished...

- Organizing 'Benefactors' and funded establishment of the organization... 501c3, accountant on retainer, attorney on retainer, office and Board of Directors.
- Numerous fundraisers to fund Veterans Bucket List Dreams. i.e golf outings, and event in conjunction with the Detroit Tigers baseball club.
- Custom Built the Bucket List Dreams Mobile Canteen (a Korean War theme mobile coffee house, built from a vintage 1960's Air Stream Trailer) which will provide income to BLD for many years to come.
- Established our line of 'signature' coffees which will, again, provide income to BLD for years to come.
- Established our website where we tell the stories of US Veterans and chronicle the fulfillment of their Bucket List Dream. And, where we sell BLD Merchandise.
- As a result of our fundraising efforts, donations, product sales and our Mobile Canteen, we began fulfilling Veterans Dreams in 2022.