

FENCERS CLUB

EST. 1883

Fencers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting excellence through the sport of fencing. We actively support a culture of sharing by performing community services that extend beyond fencing.

May 20, 2014
NEW YORK, NY –

Fencers Club, a 130-year-old non-profit organization and the oldest fencing club in the United States, has launched the Veterans On Guard Fencing Program.

Fencing is an exciting, fast-paced combat sport that is ideally suited for Veterans. It is a physically challenging sport that fosters complex problem solving skills, encourages mental agility, and teaches focus and self-discipline. Fencing events can be contested in both Olympic (able-bodied) and Paralympic (adaptive) styles.



The goals of the Veterans On Guard Program are to:

- Promote physical fitness and emotional well-being in the active duty and honorably discharged Veteran population.
- Identify and engage disabled and able-bodied Veterans to pursue excellence in fencing, professional development, and community service.
- Provide opportunities for Veterans to integrate into the broader community through fencing, mentoring, sharing knowledge and experiences.
- Create a pipeline for adaptive (wheelchair) fencing for disabled fencers in NYC.

On Sunday, June 8th Fencers Club will host its first Veterans Team Invitational Tournament, beginning at 2:00PM at their state-of-the-art facility at 229 West 28th Street (2nd Floor) in Chelsea. This event will partner Veterans with the club's top-level athletes (including a Senior World Team gold medalist and a National Champion) across eight teams that will fence for gold and glory. The elite athletes will anchor the teams and serve as coaches to give the Veteran-fencers valuable experience while putting their fencing skills, military training and experiences to the test against some of the best competitors in the world.

In 2012, the US Olympic Committee recognized Fencers Club as one of only ten organizations across all sports nationwide to be designated as a Community Olympic Development Program due to its innovative and effective programs. The Veterans On Guard Fencing Program is part of these Fencers Club Foundations for Excellence and is for free to Veterans and Active Duty military personnel. Approximately 10-15 Veterans covering all Armed Forces branches and with services spanning from WWII through Iraq and Afghanistan attend two weekly sessions on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. No prior fencing experience is necessary and the club's elite athletes teach the sessions that include footwork, bladework, tactics/strategy, and supervised bouts (sparring).

US Paralympics (a division of the USOC) and the Department of Veterans Affairs have partnered with Fencers Club through a generous grant to help provide world-class instruction, fencing equipment and training space for Veteran-fencers. With many of New York State's one million registered Veterans living in the NYC area, it is Fencers Club's goal to reach as many as possible, to support those who honorably served or are currently serving our country succeed both on and off the fencing strip.



COMMUNITY OLYMPIC
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
FENCERS CLUB

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Meet Some of Our Military Veteran-Fencers



Sergeant Debora A.-W., US Army, Ret.
Years in Active Duty: 4 (1976-1980)



Senior Airman Nick A.,
US Air Force, Ret.
Years in Active Duty: 10
(1990-2000)



Mr. John L.,
US Marine Corps, Ret.



Senior Airman Alberto C.,
US Air Force, Ret.
Years in Active Duty: 3
(2003-2006)



Private First Class Latoya S.,
US Army, Ret.
Years in Active Duty: 4
(2006-2010)



Corporal Peter B.,
US Army, Ret.
Years in Active Duty: 2
(1943-1945)



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