



## MEDIA RELEASE

### *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## Riders of Valor and TEC to Host Senior Veteran Celebration

Buchanan, MI – April 23, 2026 – The Therapeutic Equestrian Center (TEC) welcomes the community to come together in honor of veterans and experience the healing impact of equine-assisted programs. Join TEC for the Senior Veteran Celebration on Sunday, May 17, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jane M. Hiler Facility, 1207 E. Galien-Buchanan Road in Buchanan.

Presented in partnership with Riders of Valor, this **free, family-friendly event** will honor the courage and resilience of veterans, active military personnel, and their families, while highlighting the life-changing impact of TEC's equine-assisted services.

***“This event is about more than just a celebration; it’s about honoring those who have served and sharing the powerful healing that happens every day through our TEC WITH VETS program,” said Margie Hojara-Hadsell, TEC WITH VETS Instructor. “We see firsthand how the connection between horse and human can restore confidence, build trust, and bring hope.”***

### **A Day of Honor, Inspiration & Community**

The event will begin with a Color Guard Opening Ceremony at 10:45 a.m., followed by a full schedule of engaging activities and entertainment, including:

- 11 a.m. – Veteran & Spouse Riding Skills Demonstration
- 1 p.m. – Live music by country artist Curtis Lee Putman
- 2 p.m. – Performance by illusionist MagicBob
- 3 p.m. – Remarks from program leaders and community voices

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Throughout the day, guests can enjoy face painting, games, mechanical calf roping tutorials, and opportunities to connect with local service organizations.

Admission is free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and donations are encouraged to support TEC's programs.

**Where Horse Heroes Meet Our Two-Legged Heroes**

TEC WITH VETS is designed to support veterans, active military personnel, and their families as they navigate the challenges of returning to civilian life. Through a combination of equine-assisted learning and therapeutic riding, participants build confidence, develop emotional resilience, and experience meaningful moments of achievement.

For many veterans, the transition home includes facing invisible wounds such as post-traumatic stress (PTS), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), anxiety, and depression. TEC WITH VETS offers a safe, supportive environment where healing can begin, often through the simple, powerful connection with a horse.

***"I came to TEC to get back in the saddle, but what I found was a place where you rebuild, reconnect, and grow stronger in every way. It's more than riding, it's a second chance." Shared Nick Jones, participant of TEC WITH VETS since early 2023, and a member of Riders of Valor.***

Participants work one-on-one with trained instructors and specially selected horses, progressing at their own pace. In addition to riding, many find purpose through volunteering and becoming part of the TEC community.

**More Than a Program; It's A Community**

***"TEC WITH VETS is about reconnection with yourself, with others, and with a renewed sense of purpose," said Hillary McCalebb, TEC Volunteer Coordinator. "We are honored to walk alongside our veterans and their families on that journey."***



To learn more about the Senior Veteran Celebration event, visit [www.tecfarm.org/fundraisers-specialevents](http://www.tecfarm.org/fundraisers-specialevents) event. For more details about the TEC WITH VETS program, visit [www.tecfarm.org/tecwithvets](http://www.tecfarm.org/tecwithvets).

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**Downloads: Media PR/PDF, and Event Flyer.**



## **About TEC**

Since 2006, TEC has made “**I Did It!**” moments happen. TEC is a nonprofit 501(c)3 service organization that provides year-round, horse-related activities and therapeutic riding to people with disabilities. All programs at TEC are designed to help participants find hope, reach beyond their expectations, and discover unlimited possibilities. This is achieved by engaging the power of horses to challenge, inspire, and strengthen participants' bodies, minds, and spirits. TEC is open to residents of all ages with disabilities in Southwest Michigan and the Michiana Area, including veterans, active-duty military members, and their families. For more information, visit [www.tecfarm.org](http://www.tecfarm.org) or follow TEC on Facebook and Instagram.

