

**DECLASSIFIED**

Mission Debrief

OPERATION WAKE SURF

MONTHLY UPDATE



Operation Wake Surf kicked off the 2026 season with an unforgettable first stop at the Vietnam Traveling Wall parade in Scottsdale, Arizona—a powerful tribute that set the tone for everything that followed. From there, the team spent two days on the water pulling local heroes, bringing moments of connection, healing, and adrenaline to those who have served. Nearly every branch of the military was represented, alongside members of police and fire departments, all coming together in a shared spirit of camaraderie and appreciation.

The mission continued in California, where more heroes were welcomed out on Lake Folsom before heading to the California Delta for two full days of wakesurfing and community impact. This marked the second annual Delta event, and it did not disappoint—offering both returning and new participants a chance to experience the freedom and joy that Operation Wake Surf is all about. These back-to-back events highlight the organization's growing reach and the meaningful connections being built across the

country. As the first leg of the journey wraps up, the team prepares to fly home while leaving the boat and truck in California in anticipation of returning on May 16 for another two days on Lake Folsom. This West Coast swing wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of partners like **LIG Rentals** and an incredible \$5,000 donation from **Awning Detailers Inc.**, who also made it possible to stay on-site in the Delta. With 3,114 miles already behind them—and only halfway through the trip—the 2026 season is off to a powerful and inspiring start.



SALUTE 2 SERVICE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Operation Wake Surf is all about Salute 2 Service. One of the biggest things that reminds us and our partners of our mission is to see the smiling faces of all the heroes we have the pleasure of meeting and sharing our passion for watersports with. The smiles say it all and keep us passionate and fueled up to spread the stoke all across the country. Every penny OWS brings in goes towards making those smiles possible for our heroes.

[SEE EVENT PICTURES](#)



UP NEXT

EVENTS

May 19-20	Folsom CA	S2S
June 1-3	Mooreville NC	3 Day Event
June 19-20	Tennessee	S2S

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

HERO SPOTLIGHT

MEET ERIC RODRIGUEZ - USMC

Eric first discovered Operation Wake Surf by chance during a day of fishing at Lake Pleasant in Arizona. While grabbing lunch at the marina restaurant, he noticed a lively group nearby—one person wearing an Operation Wake Surf shirt and a Centurion wake boat with OWS decals tied up just outside. Curious, he looked up the organization and learned about its mission to bring military veterans and first responders together on the water through wake surfing.

After finding OWS on Instagram, he reached out and soon connected directly with the founders. That simple message led to an invitation to join the crew on Lake Pleasant, where—despite hail and freezing temperatures far from typical Arizona weather—he and several fellow veterans spent an unforgettable half-day learning to wake surf. It was an experience he never imagined having, and one that deepened his appreciation for the community OWS creates.

A former U.S. Marine now working in public service, Eric is grounded by his family, whom he describes as his backbone. When he's not serving his community, he enjoys spending time outdoors, especially boating, fishing, and relaxing with friends over a good cigar. His introduction to Operation Wake Surf has become a meaningful extension of those passions, blending time on the water with camaraderie and connection.

Eric continues to stay involved with the organization and encourages others to follow along with his journey on Instagram at @erod1775.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

OPERATION WAKE SURF IS A 501.C.3 NONPROFIT COMPANY

Whether you donate time, talent, or financial support, it allows us to host free and unique events to honor the heroes of this great country.

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