

**ADVANCING VALOR:** 

## 2024 MID-YEAR REVIEW







## **STRONGTIMES**

A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact. Volume VII, No. 1 2024



## A MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRIS MEEK

This July, SoldierStrong is proud to celebrate our 15th anniversary! Because of the continued support of Americans like you from across the country, we are blessed to be able to reflect back on the meaningful growth

our organization has experienced and more importantly, our indelible impact on the lives of America's veterans.

As many of you know, SoldierStrong originally started out as SoldierSocks in 2009, an organization with a mission to deliver desperately needed basic essentials like socks and baby wipes to troops overseas. In 2013, we formally transitioned our mission to donating revolutionary medical technologies to Veterans Affairs medical facilities and individual veterans across the country, making more than \$5.5 million in donations since.

But our work isn't done yet! As long as veterans bear both the visible and invisible wounds of their service, SoldierStrong will be there to provide them with life-

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Pg. 2 Laura Cowen demonstrates the SoldierSuit at GCRF golf tournament

Pg. 3 A peek inside an Evening to Benefit SoldierStrong in Dallas

Pg.4 Celebrate SoldierStrong's 15th Anniversary!

changing and life-saving medical technologies to better their quality of life and overall health.

I ask you today to remember and pray for the scores of patriots who have served throughout our nation's history and recommit yourself to giving back to those who allow us to live in freedom and prosperity. When you continue to support SoldierStrong, you are allowing us to reach an even wider swath of veterans than we ever thought possible at the onset of this journey. In recognition of our 15th anniversary, I humbly ask you to consider making a contribution to SoldierStrong so that we can continue to honor those who served for years to come.

I look forward to the great work the future will allow us to accomplish together on behalf of veterans across the nation. Cheers to 15 years and God bless!

Dr. Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman



## THE GRAHAM AND COURTNEY RAHAL **FOUNDATION HOSTS ANNUAL DRIVERS** TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG

The Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation (GCRF) hosted the organization's annual Drivers Tournament on Thursday, May 23 at Brickyard Crossing in Indianapolis, IN ahead of the Indy 500. SoldierStrong Ambassador and U.S. Navy Veteran Laura Cowen had the opportunity to demonstrate the Ekso Indego exoskeleton she uses to stand and walk despite paralysis to the nearly 200 attendees who traveled from across the great state of Indiana to show their support.

Funds raised from the event will go to both SoldierStrong and GCRF's other beneficiary, One Cure. Thanks to GCRF and the support of many sponsors, in particular United Rentals and the Bobby Rahal Automotive Group, it was a successful day out on the golf course that drew tremendous support for SoldierStrong's mission and provided us a platform to raise awareness about the life changing medical technologies we donate to better the lives of veterans. We are especially appreciative for the continued generosity displayed by Graham and Courtney Rahal and their foundation.









#### UNITED RENTALS SHOWS SUPPORT FOR SOLDIERSTRONG THROUGH TURNS FOR TROOPS INITIATIVE

United Rentals Inc., the world's largest equipment rental company, in partnership with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, continues to support SoldierStrong throughout the 2024 NTT IndyCar Series race season through the Turns For Troops initiative. This is the eighth consecutive year that United Rentals has donated \$50 for each lap that NTT IndyCar Series driver and SoldierStrong Advisory Board Member Graham Rahal completes in specific races throughout the IndyCar season. Since its inception, Turns For Troops has raised more than \$1.8 million to help support the recovery of America's injured veterans. Be sure to catch NTT IndyCar Series races throughout the season to cheer Graham on and show your support for SoldierStrong!



# TURNS FOR TROOPS



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# A PEEK INSIDE AN EVENING TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG IN DALLAS, TX

Valued supporters of our mission hosted an Evening to Benefit SoldierStrong on May 2 to raise awareness and funds to help military veterans take their next steps forward in life after service at their beautiful home in Dallas, Texas.

The guest of honor was U.S. Army veteran and SoldierStrong Ambassador Johnnie Williams who demonstrated how he uses the SoldierSuit to stand and walk again despite paralysis for the 30 guests who attended the intimate gathering.







Guests, which included local business owners, public office holders, representatives from local veterans service organizations and faith leaders, heard firsthand from Mr. Williams about the tremendous impact that the SoldierSuit and SoldierStrong has had on his life, including his ability to be the best father possible to his young son and to compete in the Paralympics.

We are incredibly grateful to the patriots in Texas who attended the event and of course, to our gracious hosts who continue to uplift our mission year after year.







## STRONGTIMES HIGHLIGHTS \*\*\*\*\*

#### REMEMBERING JOSEPH LIEBERMAN FEBRUARY 24, 1942 - MARCH 27, 2024

Joseph I. Lieberman leaves behind a legacy marked by distinguished service in the U.S. Senate and unwavering dedication to the welfare of American servicemen and women through his involvement with SoldierStrong. Sen. Lieberman's dedication to service members shone brightly through his early involvement with our organization. As one of the original advisory board members, he played a pivotal role in elevating our organization's mission to support veterans. Despite his self-professed reluctance towards advisory boards, Lieberman's decision to join SoldierStrong, prompted by a personal request, significantly enhanced our credibility and impact. His involvement set a precedent for other prominent figures to lend their support. The SoldierStrong family, alongside his family and many admirers, mourns the loss of a true patriot.





#### **CELEBRATE SOLDIERSTRONG'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY THIS JULY!**

SoldierStrong is proud to celebrate our 15th anniversary this July! When the organization began in 2009, founder Chris Meek could not have imagined that it would grow from sending socks and baby wipes to troops overseas to donating more than \$5.5 in revolutionary medical technology to veterans. But we wouldn't be celebrating 15 years without the support of patriots like YOU!

In honor of this special milestone, we invite you to help us celebrate by making a donation today. As a thank you, when you make a recurring gift of \$15 per month or more from now until the end of the year in recognition of SoldierStrong's 15th anniversary, you'll receive a special fleece SoldierStrong blanket. Join us now by scanning the QR code to say cheers to 15 years and help us continue to make a difference!

> **SCAN THE QR CODE** TO DONATE



## STRONGTIMES HIGHLIGHTS \*\*\*\*\*

#### THE SOLDIERSTRONG APPAREL STORE IS NOW OPEN!

This summer, beat the heat and make a difference by shopping SoldierStrong's exclusive Summer Collection available from our Apparel Store. T-shirts, polos, hats and more from brands like Nike are designed for ultimate comfort and style, our collection offers everything you need to stay cool while supporting a noble cause. Each purchase goes directly back to our mission to help our veterans take their next steps forward by providing advanced medical technologies to those who have served our country.













#### **NEXT STEPS FORWARD WITH CHRIS MEEK**

Join SoldierStrong co-founder and chairman Chris Meek for his weekly podcast every Tuesday at 1 PM ET/10 AM PT for an uplifting hour focused on personal empowerment, commitment to overall wellbeing and motivation to achieve more than you ever thought possible.

In 2020, Chris began hosting Next Steps Forward with Chris Meek via the VoiceAmerica Talk Radio Network, the industry's leading producer and online broadcaster of on-demand talk radio programming. Next Steps Forward hosts leaders from the worlds of business, sports, entertainment, medicine and politics to engage thought-provoking discussion to help us all take the next steps forward in our journey to better ourselves.



















Join us every Tuesday at 1 PM ET Learn More at NextStepsForward.com



## SOLDIERSTRONG PARTNERS

#### **SUPPORT SOLDIERSTRONG TODAY!**

Your donation or partnership holds the power to catalyze change. By donating to SoldierStrong you become a partner in our mission to help change the lives of our veterans and help them take their Next Steps Forward.

#### Ready to take action? Here is how you can make a difference:

- Go to <u>SoldierStrong.org</u> to make a donation today
- Host a fundraising event which benefits SoldierStrong.
  Contact events@soldierstrong.org to get started
- Include SoldierStrong in your will or living trust
- Create a Facebook fundraising event for SoldierStrong
- To make an in-kind donation, set up a matching gifts program, or to request more information, contact SoldierStrong via email at <a href="mailto:info@soldierstrong.org">info@soldierstrong.org</a> or call us at 888-898-3235
- Thank you for considering SoldierStrong.
  Your donation will positively impact the lives of our veterans. Please donate today!

#### SOLDIERSTRONG PARTNERS

As our mission evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of the community we serve, we recognize that we could not fully accomplish our mission without the help of our current partners below:



































#### BECOME A PARTNER OR CORPORATE SPONSOR

In the past fifteen years, we have accomplished so much thanks to the support of our partners, corporate sponsors, and thousands of Americans that believe our veterans deserve the best medical care there is to offer. SoldierStrong is committed to providing America's heroes with the technology and therapy they desperately need and deserve. We are actively seeking new partnerships and would love to speak with you about partnership opportunities!

**Learn More:** SoldierStrong.org

Call: 888.898.3235

**Email:** info@soldierstrong.org

