

14 YEARS FOR OUR HEROES!

SUMMER 2018

Splash for Warriors

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***Landstuhl Regional
Medical Center***

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**SEMPER FI
FUND**

ARMY • MARINE CORPS • NAVY • AIR FORCE • COAST GUARD



A Note from Our Founder

122,640 hours. Wow. A lot can happen in that time. That's 14 years dedicated to changing lives. That's 14 years of the best staff and volunteers putting their hearts and souls into an organization. That's 14 years of serving those who preserve our freedom. That's 14 years, 21,000 service members, and \$176 million...and we have been blessed to be able to experience every single one.

A decade and a half ago, sitting around a kitchen table at Camp Pendleton, CA, a handful of military spouses (armed with nothing but their coffee and some big ideas) began to ask themselves "what can we do?" Medevacs flying into Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital brought waves of injured service members — whose family members were spread around the country. We saw the tremendous need for financial, emotional and physical support — and so the Semper Fi Fund was born.

With every year comes a new adventure for the Fund: a new outlet to help our service members, a new donor, a new staff member. I am personally grateful with everything the Fund has been able to accomplish over the past decade and a half, and I cannot wait to see what comes next.

Thank you to everyone who has continually supported us and aided us in changing lives. God Bless you for supporting our military men and women, and their families!

With my deepest gratitude,

Karen Guenther
Karen Guenther
President/CEO/Founder
Semper Fi Fund



We are Excited to Announce:

#SFFCANNONBALLCHALLENGE



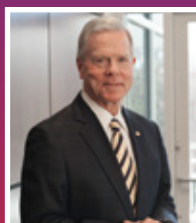
RAISING SPLASH FOR OUR WARRIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Semper Fi Fund Cannonball Challenge July 4th 2018

Show us your best moves for the **#SFFCannonballChallenge** Raising Splash for our warriors and their families. Find your nearest baby pool, lake or ocean and challenge your friends to make the biggest splash for our heroes.

Send in your video. Top Ten videos with most 'likes' will win a Semper Fi Fund package — backpack, yeti, and tee shirt!

Campaign July 1st–July 31st!



A Note from Gen Amos

"Semper Fidelis" (always faithful) comes to mind when I think about the mission of the Semper Fi Fund. But there's a second Latin phrase, "nemo resideo" (leave no one behind), that I think embodies all that the Semper Fi Fund does, and all they have accomplished in the past decade and a half.

The spirit of "nemo resideo," found in a variety of U.S. military creeds, lives in our Fund's mission statement: "Dedicated to providing financial assistance and lifetime support to post-9/11 combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured service members and their families."

"Lifetime support" means exactly that. We don't leave behind the recovering service members and families we assist. Our support doesn't end when an injured service member's time in the hospital ends.

Sadly, my three-year term limit has come to a close. As of June 1, 2018, I will no longer serve as your Chairman. I watched this wonderful effort 'up close and personal' during my final decade on active duty. The Semper Fi Fund team stood at the bedside of most every Marine and Sailor I visited at legendary hospitals like Bethesda, Walter Reed, Brooke Army Hospital, Balboa and Tampa Poly Trauma. It was at the bedsides of countless wounded that my admiration grew for the ladies in the red shirts. It was there that I committed to always supporting this organization.

I send my heartfelt thanks to you — our donors, the Semper Fi Fund staff, and all of our supporters for your dedication to serving those who have so faithfully served our great country.

As always, I remain...Semper Fidelis

General James F. Amos

SEMPER FI FUND'S **New Pilot Program!**

We are excited to announce the **LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund**.

The program will expand our mission to care for veterans catastrophically injured from combat operations in Vietnam. Our team has felt for many years that there is a significant gap in care for those who served our country. Two thirds of Vietnam Veterans were volunteers, and our goal is to show this generation of military they are loved and appreciated. We are starting with the most catastrophically injured and

will help in three specific areas:



- Adaptive Housing
- Adaptive Transportation
- Grants for Medical Expenses not Covered by Insurance

We polled many of our donors and our current post 9-11 service members and received a passionate **go for it!** in response to this new program. Our Semper Fi Fund service members feel they received such a



warm welcome home from combat due to the lessons learned in Vietnam. It's time to honor these American Heroes! This pilot program is proudly named after Bob Parsons, Vietnam Purple Heart recipient. Bob is also SFF's largest donor. Our hope is that you will be as excited as we are to expand Semper Fi Fund's mission, and welcome Vietnam Veterans into our family.



14 YEARS STRONG

★ \$176 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE

Thank you for ALL YOU have done over these past 14 years to support those who serve us all.

THANK YOU!



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“ Imagine the collective impact of these 169,000 grants on the lives of the 21,000 service members and their families. ”

★ DEDICATED TO HELPING ALL BRANCHES OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES!



5 Questions for U.S. Navy Chaplain Gordon

"AS YOU DO HEALTHY THINGS FOR YOUR LIFE, THINGS DO GET BETTER."

How did you become a Navy Chaplain?

I was commissioned in 1992. Two of my brothers are police officers, so when I was a junior in high school, I got picked by the Rotary Club in town to go to the police academy for the summer (we had kind of an ROTC program for the academy). I decided to go into the ministry, went to college, pastored at the college church at Indiana Wesleyan, then Desert Storm happened. I've had family members in the military all the way back to the Civil War. My dad was in WWII, my uncle was in Korea and my brother and cousin were in Vietnam. So when it came to Desert Storm, I thought, "I want to do my part." Out of my 24 years of active duty, over 19 were spent with the Marine Corps; I had one tour with the Navy and I went Marine Corps after that. Most of my deployments were with infantry Marines.

How did you first learn about the Semper Fi Fund?

I was chaplain at the Wounded Warrior Regiment, and of course we worked closely with the Semper Fi Fund to help wounded warriors in their transition back to their new normal, so my interaction with the Fund has been at least since 2008. But it wasn't until about September of last year that I got contacted by Jenn (a Semper Fi Fund Case Manager). She realized I had gone through some difficult transitions because of post-traumatic stress disorder. I just hit the wall and fell apart. At that point, she came to me and said, "What can we do to help?" I said, "I'm really trying to get a service dog," and she said, "You know what? Let me handle this."



What can you tell us about Paraclete, your service dog?

She is an English cream labrador retriever — a white dog with dark eyes. She's two years old. Paraclete, of course, is a Greek name; the word was used by Christ with his disciples when he told them he was going to die, and they panicked. The word means "holy spirit" and in that context meant "alongside comforter" — that's really what she is, she's by my side wherever I go.



Your wife has utilized the Semper Fi Fund's Caregiver Support Program, hasn't she?

Yes, she has. You know, for 24 years she carried the weight of the family so much while I was gone — not only during deployments, but military life is very demanding. You put in long hours, you're on call 24/7, there's a lot of family time that gets sacrificed. She has benefited so much from the Fund coming to her as a caregiver to me. Even before Paraclete, she's my caregiver, my soulmate, she ministers to me first. The Fund has given her opportunities to get away with other caregivers — on retreats, dinners,

time away with other caregivers — to rejuvenate, to refresh themselves, to have contact with other caregivers who deal with other spouses who are struggling with many of the same issues. She's so thankful for that.

What's the one thing you want people to know about you and your story?

Well, it sounds trite and trivial, but life is so fragile — to hold it in our hand is a precious moment. To be alive. So many of my friends didn't come back. You can get dragged through all sorts of terrible things, but there's always hope that it can get better. And as you do healthy things for your life, things do get better — and they have gotten better for me. The Semper Fi Fund and so many resources have helped me come to a place of wholeness and recovery. ■

176 Million

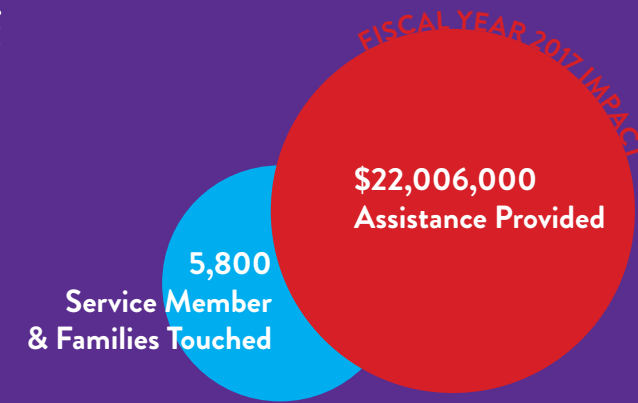
of assistance given to date

FISCAL YEAR 2017

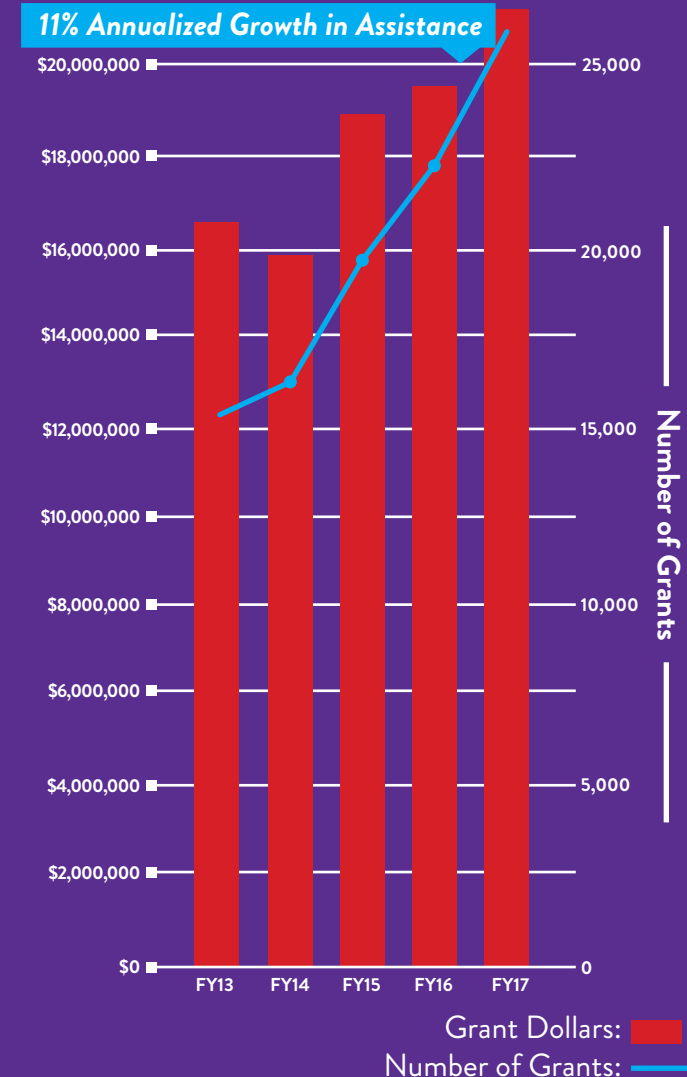
Assistance for Service Members and their Families

	\$6,890,000 11,400 grants
	\$5,559,000 2,600 grants
	\$1,452,000 1,200 grants
	\$2,711,000 2,100 grants
	\$931,000 500 grants
	\$2,888,000 4,200 grants
	\$1,575,000 3,200 grants

Total:
\$22,006,000
25,200 grants

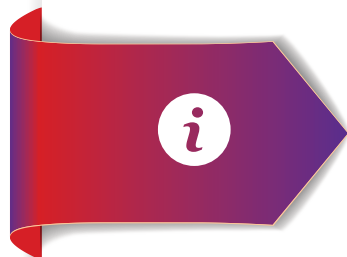


Growth in Assistance Over the Past Five Fiscal Years

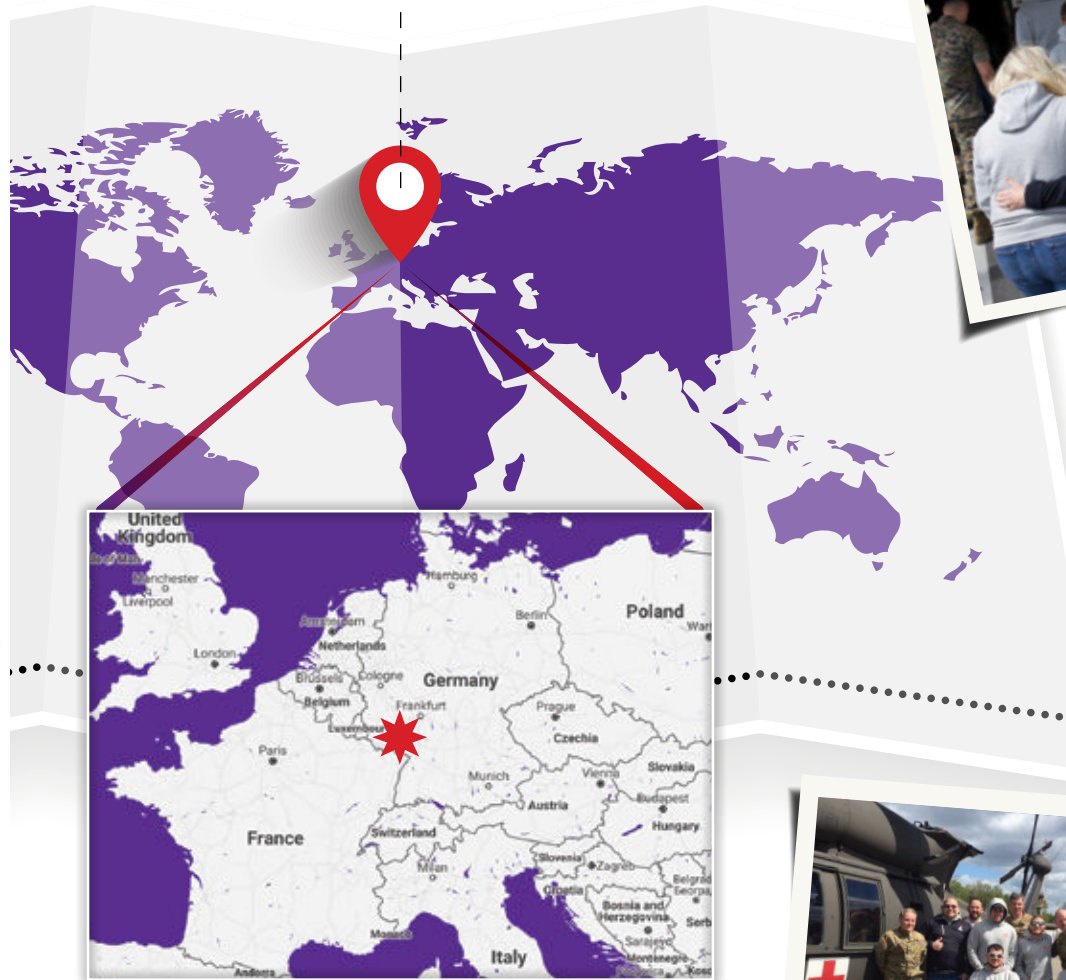


RETURNING TO LANDSTUHL

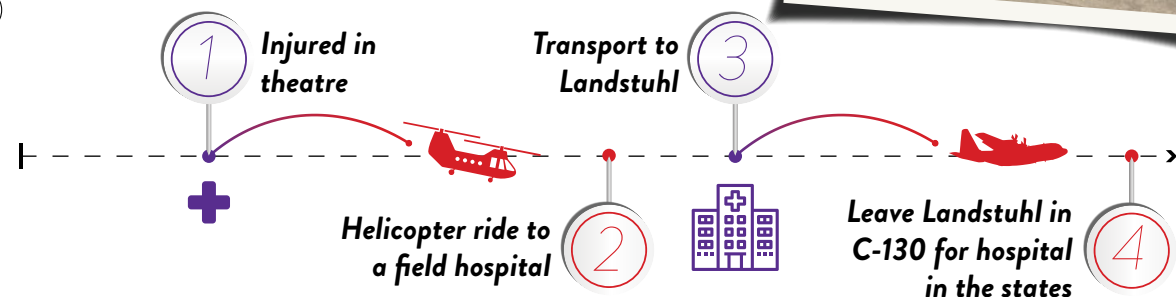
LANDSTUHL, GERMANY: -



Landstuhl Regional Medical Center opened in the early 1950's. It is the hospital where service members with traumatic injuries from combat are taken for medical treatment before returning to the states.



AN INJURED SERVICE MEMBER'S MEDEVAC JOURNEY:



Returning home – A day deployed service members dream of when fighting for our country overseas. Many receive welcome home parties upon coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, often with hugging family members, posters and balloons. But some of these service members do not remember their welcome, their first moments home from war. Some forget one of the most important first stops an injured service member could make – Landstuhl Army Hospital in Germany.

The Semper Fi Fund's annual trip to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is one that touches so many lives. We initially took a trip to visit the hospital in Germany with the Fisher House Foundation in 2007. While speaking with medical staff who personally helped all of the incoming wounded, Founder Karen Guenther asked the nurses and doctors in the ICU what the Fund could do, to thank them for their dedication to our nation's wounded – without whom many wouldn't be alive. Expecting a response requesting new medical equipment or certain personal comforts, a nurse instead replied, "Just bring them back". When an injured service member comes through the hospital, the medical staff stabilizes them in order to travel to the United States. Many of the service members are unconscious, in dire pain, or only at Landstuhl for a matter of hours before they go home. Staff at the hospital often wonder about their former patients and how they have transitioned. These talented doctors and nurses truly pour their hearts and souls into keeping patients alive, with the goal to reunite with their families. The medical staff rarely see the end results of their phenomenal and extraordinary acts of service.

We knew the Fund had to do something to bring this process full circle. We began to bring back wounded service members who had gone through the ICU. The immediate results were

unbelievable. Upon arriving, many suppressed memories began to emerge in the service members' minds. The triggers ranged from the color of the hospital walls and the ceiling of the Dustoff helicopter, to the face or voice of the nurse who had taken care of them. Doctors and nurses were able to embrace these service members, beautiful moments for all who witnessed the power of these reunions. We knew we had to continue. The staff may not come into contact with the exact pilot, infantryman or sailor that they cared for, but seeing the men and women walk in on their own two feet, or by their own will, is all they needed to know that everything they do in the hospital is worth it. On one of our recent trips, an airman put his prosthetic legs on and walked into the hospital, a healing experience that he said was a priceless moment in his recovery process.

For the past eleven years we have made an annual trip to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Once again, the Fund embraced not only the physical but also the personal and emotional well-being of our heroes. Flying service members to Germany for this reunion is a powerful trip for not only them, but also their moms and caregivers, nurses, doctors, and helicopter pilots who made their journey home possible. ■



HERO STORIES



Paving the Way for Family Playtime

*What a difference a fence, leveled ground and a playset can make!
This is just another way the Semper Fi Fund is assisting America's service members.*

Thanks to a combined effort from **The Home Depot Foundation** and **our generous donors**, Army veteran Matt and his daughters are able to spend time together outside on their beautiful playset. "I can't thank you enough for helping us complete this project for our family!" Matt said. "Now I can access my daughters' play area in my wheelchair and spend time

with them without having to put on my prosthetic legs."

The fence was completed with funds from the Home Depot while the playset and improved walkway were made possible by the SFF and the hard work of Matt himself. The swing set originally sat on an uneven piece of dirt, and in order for Matt to get to it, he had to put on his prosthetics and maneuver across

uneven sloped and rocky terrain.

"It would always lead to me falling. Now with the new path and leveled landscaped, I'm able to use my wheelchair and spend time with the girls while they play. None of this would have been possible without your help. This was a great family project and is very satisfying to see the final product after many weekends of hard work," he explained. ■

"Now I'm able to spend time with the girls while they play without the hassle. None of this would have been possible without your help."



LIFETIME SOLUTIONS FOR THE WOUNDED,
— CRITICALLY ILL AND INJURED —



Service Member & Family Support Program

Assisting the family unit from injury through recovery.

- Bedside Financial Support
- Caregiver Support & Retreats
- Housing Assistance
- Kids Camp
- Transportation Assistance
- Tim and Sandy Day Canine Companions Program
- Specialized & Adaptive Equipment
- Horsemanship Program



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Integrative Wellness Program

Providing health therapies to improve body, mind and spirit.

- PTSD & TBI Support
- NeuroFitness
- High-Tech Medical Devices
- Post-Traumatic Growth Video Resources
- Doc's Corner
- Holistic Health Solutions
- Counseling
- Sports Program



Transition Program

Integrating service members back into their communities.

- Education & Career Assistance
- Veteran & Unit Reunions
- Veteran 2 Veteran Support (V2V)
- Semper Fi Fund Odyssey Retreat
- Apprenticeship Program

Semper Fi Fund
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Oceanside, CA 92057

THANK YOU

for Serving Those Who Preserve our Freedom

\$176,000,000

GIVEN IN ASSISTANCE TO SERVICE MEMBERS

We've helped over

21,000

wounded heroes & their families

95

Grants
processed
per day

A+ RATING

from CharityWatch



Platinum Seal of Transparency
from GuideStar



4-Star Rating from
Charity Navigator

OPERATES WITH AN AVERAGE OF
6% OVERHEAD SINCE INCEPTION

SEMPER FI FUND SINCE 2004

Donations may be made online:
SemperFiFund.org

Please send check donations to:
Semper Fi Fund
825 College Boulevard
Suite 102, PMB 609
Oceanside, CA 92057


Donate today and give a legacy for tomorrow. Please consider joining our Semper Fi Fund Legacy Society and continue to make a difference in the lives of our service members forever.

For any additional information, please email:
info@semperfund.org



Semper Fi Fund
is a registered 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.

For donations, the Fund's federal
tax ID number is **26-0086305**.


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