



SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S®
FUND



Semper Fi & America's Fund cares for our nation's critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families. Supporting all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, we provide one-on-one case management, connection, and lifetime support.



DEAR FUND FRIENDS AND FAMILY...

Since joining The Fund's Board two years ago, I am continually inspired and humbled by how far we have come as an organization. What began around a kitchen table in 2003 has reached new heights. Today, The Fund has provided \$273 million in total support for over 28,000 critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. This incredible accomplishment is a testament to the tireless work of our staff, case managers, visiting nurses, and volunteers.

Looking back, 2021 was certainly an onerous year. The end of the war in Afghanistan and the effects that it had on the men and women who served, coupled with the continuing impacts of COVID-19, posed just some of the challenges our service members, veterans, and military families faced. Though these are difficult times, the response from our many donors has and continues to be one of steadfast assistance.

This unwavering support was certainly on display during our most recent "Double Down for Veterans" fundraising campaign, when The Fund met our fundraising goal of \$20 million, with a \$10 million match from The Bob and Renee Parsons Foundation, in record time. The generosity from all our supporters is a daily reminder of the trust that so many Americans have placed in us to care for our service members, veterans, and military families.

As we look to the future, it is clear that there is much work left to be done. Many of our critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families are facing lifelong challenges, and we must hold up our part of the agreement to do everything we can to improve their quality of life and independence. There are so many suffering in silence, and we continue to find ways to reach and connect with them so they can get the help and hope they need and rightfully deserve.

What makes us unique is our **lifetime commitment** to provide for those in our care and I have great confidence that we will continue to rise to the occasion to meet the great challenges and opportunities that await us.

I hope that you and your families have a safe and enjoyable summer. Semper Fidelis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Dunford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.
19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
36th Commandant of the Marine Corps



Double Down for Veterans

Setting new records and reaching new heights!

You helped us raise over \$23 million during the 2021 Double Down for Veterans Campaign!

For 10 years, The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation has generously matched dollar-for-dollar donations to Semper Fi & America's Fund, this year matching up to \$10 million. Not only did we make the match 9 days early (the earliest ever!), but we also broke records in

the total amount ever raised to deliver vital assistance to our service members, veterans, and military families.

Together, we will provide life-changing support only made possible because of generous donors like you.

From everyone at The Fund and those we serve, thank you!



The Fund BY THE NUMBERS



92 cents of every dollar spent since inception has gone toward financial assistance and programs for our veterans and their families



40 new service members assisted each week



11,000 of the veterans we have assisted are catastrophically injured and will require lifetime support



The suicide rate of service members assisted by The Fund since 2004 is **30% lower** than the rate for the overall combat-wounded population



On average, **360** volunteers donate 3,485 hours annually



95% of veterans surveyed indicated an improvement in their overall well-being due to services provided by The Fund



85% of our staff members have a military affiliation

Our Impact



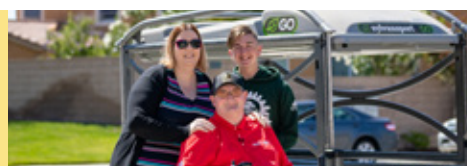
▶ Adaptive Housing Assistance

- FY2021: \$2,248,000
- Since inception: \$20,792,000



▶ Adaptive Transportation Assistance

- FY2021: \$2,158,000
- Since inception: \$14,751,000



▶ Specialized & Adaptive Equipment

- FY2021: \$1,780,000
- Since inception: \$15,618,000



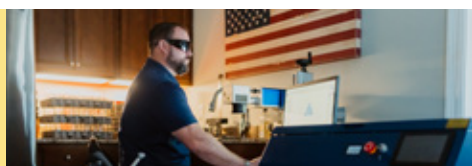
▶ LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund

- FY2021: \$1,864,000
- Since inception: \$5,917,000



▶ Disaster Relief Program

- FY2021: \$2,255,000
- Since inception: \$8,566,000



▶ Apprenticeship Program

- FY2021: \$829,000
- Since inception: \$5,591,000



▶ Tim & Sandy Day Canine Companions Program

- FY2021: \$500,000
- Since inception: \$4,457,000

Hero Story

Petty Officer Second Class Vincent Lynch — A Story to Tell

“BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, YOUR VISIONS, AND DREAMS, AND STAY CONSISTENT. BEAT YOUR CRAFT EVERY DAY AND KEEP YOUR FAITH.”

Petty Officer Second Class Vincent Lynch has an incredible story to tell.

It is a story marked by pain, uncertainty, and difficult trials ... but most of all, it is a story marked by perseverance and finding hope, even in the hardest moments.

Vincent followed in the footsteps of his father — a fellow service member — and joined the Navy while in college. A double major in Music and Sociology, he always felt called to serve our country, and at nineteen, he enlisted, completed bootcamp, and found himself “singing my heart out all the way through A school, (accession training),” said Vincent.

Three special combat schools later, Vincent deployed to fight piracy in Somalia for an unforgettable 10-month deployment, serving as an operations specialist and on the security reaction force and VBSS (visit, board, search, seizure) team. This experience overseas proved life-changing for Vincent as the peril these sailors experienced firsthand later inspired the movie *Captain Phillips*. While there, Vincent suffered shoulder, knee, and back injuries and returned home with very difficult memories to process.

In 2011, Vincent deployed to Cuba to serve as a prison guard, a yearlong assignment which was a constant physical and mental struggle. From securing detainees to meeting the intense demands of daily operations, Vincent maintained a heroic level of composure throughout it all, and upon returning to the States, he was diagnosed with

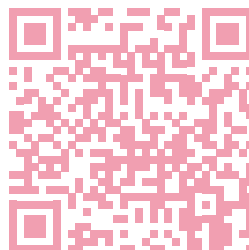
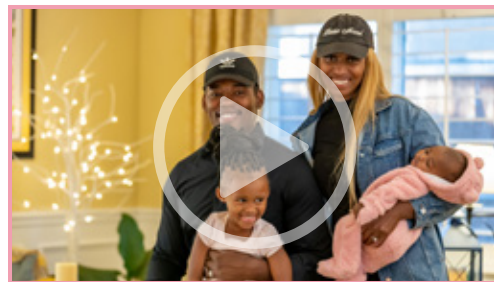
PTSD, chronic pain, and nerve damage. Vincent’s family also faced a new battle — homelessness.

That is when The Fund stepped in to support the Lynch family by finding new housing and offering “Full 360 help, whether it be financial, emotional or transitional help,” said Vincent. “They **gave me hope** and the push to keep on going and be something great after my service when I didn’t even want to or even see how.”

To transition into civilian life, Vincent joined Semper Fi & America’s Fund Apprenticeship Program and upon his graduation, The Fund provided grants for studio equipment for this hero to start his own record label. He has since created a unique platform for artistic veterans and active service members, produced music and recordings for many artists, and attended red carpets events, including the Grammys.

“The Fund actually listened to my story and helped me,” said Vincent. “No matter how broken you think you are, you can achieve your goals and dreams after service.”

Vincent’s incredible positivity, endless creativity, and passion for music have driven this husband and self-proclaimed “girl dad” to extraordinary heights, and The Fund will always be beside this wonderful family, from the smallest moments to the ones that forever change a life.



Scan to Hear
Vincent’s Story

We need your help today — now more than ever. Food insecurity, inflation, and the lingering impact of the pandemic are affecting our nation's wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families. Please consider a gift today.



In His Own Words

Below is a testimonial The Fund received from one of the thousands of veterans helped each year. His words mirror the experiences and sentiments expressed by so many veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. If one thing is taken from the story he shares, it is that there is always opportunity for a fresh start and having the right people in your “fireteam” can make all the difference in the world to achieving every goal.

Let me begin by first wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

For many the last couple of years have been anything but exciting. A fresh start is something we could all use. Although 2021 was anything but normal, it was a very productive year for myself with the help of my team appointed to me on behalf of the Semper Fi & America’s Fund. My case manager was extremely helpful as always, and I was introduced to my Veteran Lead who gave me suggestions that paid off tremendously, as I am now gainfully employed, back in school and receiving the help I need from the VA.

When I was first introduced to The Fund, this was not the case. I lived alone, no children, no job and I slept in my car. I was homeless and I was an alcoholic. I found my rock bottom. Generally speaking, not a lot of people have hope for an addict that lives in a car in California, but The Fund did. They gave me resources, some monetary, but what helped me the most was the follow ups, and the efforts they made to hold me accountable, requiring current proof of treatment as a prerequisite in order to receive a grant.

That was 2015, I ended up getting out of the rut and finishing my bachelor’s in psychology from California State with high honors. In 2018, I had my son and became a father, which brought many financial challenges. Once again, I had the help I needed to get through the tough times. At this point, I’m working and sober but still continued to struggle with my trauma from combat. The team introduced me to NeuroFitness a class that helped

me practice mindfulness and provided me with tools such as meditation and breathing exercises. This along with my regular therapy, kept me from acting erratically towards my son and kept me centered mentally.

In 2019, I was introduced to my Veteran Lead who became a lifeline and permanent part of my fireteam. In combat we trust the members of our fireteam to get us through the

worst situations. That was my Veteran Lead, who not only helped me get the rating I deserved but became my go to shoulder to cry on when I just needed to vent.

Currently, I am a VA volunteer. I help vets and I do it for free. It makes me feel good. I’m going back to school for my master’s in social work starting this month, and I work. I practice meditation daily, tai chi and yoga occasionally. I just got back from the Semper Fi Odyssey, which utilizes these activities as coping mechanisms and now I’m completely obsessed. I’m a great father, and a sober father to my son. My life is balanced, and it’s never been better. I couldn’t have done it without my team. I’m forever grateful for what The Fund has provided.

“ I’M A GREAT FATHER, AND A SOBER FATHER TO MY SON. MY LIFE IS BALANCED, AND IT’S NEVER BEEN BETTER. I COULDN’T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT MY TEAM. I’M FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR WHAT THE FUND HAS PROVIDED. ”

Innovative Solutions

Service Member & Family Support

From Injury Through Recovery

- Bedside Support
- Housing Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Adaptive Equipment
- Visiting Nurses
- Caregiver Support & Retreats
- Skip's Kids Program
- LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund for Vietnam Veterans
- Disaster Relief

Transition

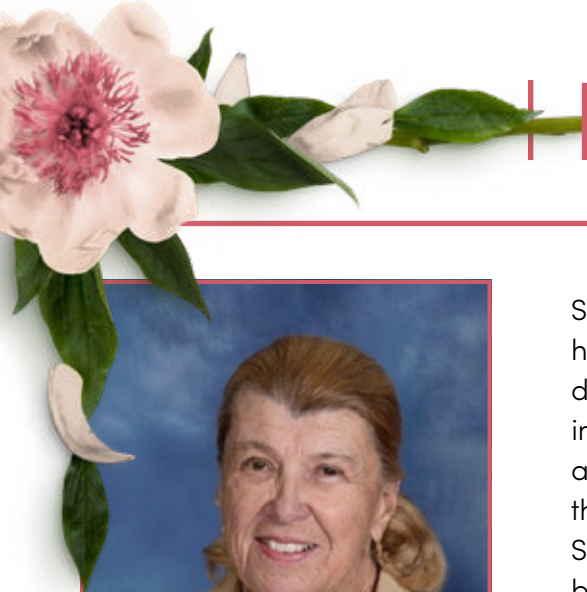
Integrating Service Members Back Into Their Communities

- Veteran to Veteran Support
- Apprenticeship Program
- Education & Career Assistance
- Veteran & Unit Reunions

Integrative Wellness

Tools to Improve Body, Mind, and Spirit

- NeuroFitness
- Tim & Sandy Day Canine Companions Program
- Arts & Music Program
- Horsemanship Program
- Video Resources
- PTSD Support
- Team Semper Fi Sports Program



Legacy Society



Recently, The Fund was blessed with a bequest from Sue Poyntz Williams. Sue, an amazing woman, active in supporting military charities that train guide dogs, became a champion of Semper Fi & America's Fund in her later years.

She recognized that our nation's heroes have needs that will last decades beyond the conflicts that inflicted their injuries and she set aside part of her estate to help these brave men and women. Sue is not alone. Her generous bequest is one of several gifts that The Fund receives every year from hardworking, dedicated patriots who have chosen to include The Fund in their estate plans to ensure that those who have given so much for our freedom are taken care of for as long as they need our help. These gifts allow us to meet the lifetime needs of our service members – replacing worn-out vehicles and equipment, making repairs and modifications to aging homes, and providing support for additional therapies and treatments for service members as they age

with their injuries – helping their families every step of the way. In 2014, Semper Fi & America's Fund established our Legacy Society to recognize donors who choose to include The Fund in their estate plans. We have received 104 gifts, totaling \$15 million. Some cannot give during their lifetime; others wish for their gifts to be included in their estate as a continuation and remembrance of their generosity and service. The goal of our Legacy Society is to help build The Fund's endowment and fulfill our mission of supporting our wounded and critically ill service members, veterans, and military family members.

The Home Depot Foundation & The Fund

Ten years ago, The Home Depot Foundation partnered with Semper Fi & America's Fund and has since helped 2,000 service members from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces with life-changing assistance such as home modifications and accessible landscaping. Thank you, The Home Depot Foundation, for a decade of walking alongside our military families!



Hero Story

**Navy Corpsman Daniel “Doc” Jacobs —
Never Give Up. Never Back Down. Never
Lose Hope.**

**“SHARING MY STORY HAS ALLOWED
ME TO DO SO MUCH.”**

While deployed to Iraq in 2006, Doc Jacobs was on his 225th combat patrol when an improvised explosive device (IED) struck his vehicle, critically wounding Doc and members of his unit. All the dreams that Doc had aspired to fulfill suddenly hung in the balance as he battled for his life. But Doc refused to give up, and his future would soon include remarkable accomplishments, including climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro ... all because he dared to keep dreaming of what he could achieve. Even when facing impossible hardships, Doc never lost hope and has since inspired countless others to do the same.

Having come from a family of military warriors, Doc joined the Navy in 2004 with hopes to “Serve my country and do my part. I wanted to be a corpsman, do my job, and save lives,” he said.

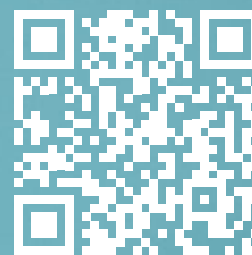
And Doc did just that.

The recipient of the Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (for saving 59 U.S. Coalition Forces lives), Combat Action Ribbon, and two Navy Good Conduct Medals, Doc completed over two years of rehabilitation after the IED explosion. It was during Doc’s initial hospitalization that he met his future case manager at The Fund, who first provided bedside support throughout Doc’s healing process and hasn’t left his side since.

“The Fund has been there for me on so many emotional levels,” said Doc. “Having someone to talk to and **knowing someone is there** is phenomenal. It’s amazing how many veterans and service members you all have helped.”

Post-injury and before medically retiring, Doc returned to the Fleet Marine Force and even made U.S. Naval and Marine Corps history by being the first amputee corpsman to be assigned to an infantry unit.

Doc now serves as a peer mentor for fellow veterans and persons with disabilities and also founded The Doc Jacobs Foundation to provide sports scholarships for kids of military families. A proud father and author, Doc has worked with organizations all over the world to share his story, encouraging everyone he meets to never give up, never back down, and never lose hope.



Scan to Hear
Daniel’s Story



Hero Story

Lieutenant Colonel Natalie Vines
– From Hurt to Healing to Hope

“I AM ALIVE TODAY BECAUSE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE SEMPER FI & AMERICA’S FUND SUPPORT ME, CARE FOR ME, AND GIVE ME HOPE.”

Twenty-one years ... that is how long Natalie Vines courageously served our country in the Army. Inspired to join the military to be a part of something bigger than herself, Natalie deployed three times – to Haiti in 1995 and twice to Iraq in 2004 and 2008. On her first deployment to Iraq, she lost consciousness after being injured by a mortar blast but upon waking, continued the mission. During her second deployment to Mosul, Natalie experienced blunt force trauma to the head and lost consciousness for an hour. Due to a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and seizures, she was medevaced to Germany before returning to the States.

Natalie joined an intensive outpatient program for TBI and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) but struggled to find the hope she needed to keep moving forward. She soon gave up on treatment and even her will to live.

But after Natalie was put in touch with The Fund by a fellow veteran, she said, “Semper Fi & America’s Fund reached out with open arms and hasn’t let go. The Fund means that my country still cares about ‘me’ and recognizes my sacrifices. **They are my family!**”

Since then, Natalie’s accomplishments have been incredible. The Fund helped adapt Natalie’s house to best fit her needs, and the unconditional love and support of her husband, Brian, have inspired her to remain very active with The Fund. She participates in The Fund’s adaptive sports program, Team Semper Fi, to stay connected to her military family and continue along her road to recovery. Her future is filled with goals to further strengthen her mind, body, and spirit, always serving as an incredible example of the journey from hurt to healing to hope.



Hero Story

Sergeant Eddie Wright – Always with a Smile

“THE RUCK IS A LONG ONE, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PUT ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER. MIGHT AS WELL DO IT WITH A SMILE.”



A Marine ... that was all Eddie Wright ever wanted to be, and his dream came true when he enlisted in 2000. Eddie served on three deployments, including twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and 2004.

During Eddie's second deployment to Iraq, the enemy ambushed Eddie's unit with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), heavy machine gun fire, improvised explosive devices, and mortar fire. One of those RPGs struck the weapon Eddie was firing, immediately taking off his hands, severely damaging his left leg, and wounding every member in his team's vehicle. But even after being critically injured, Eddie maintained the highest level of composure, saving lives by pointing out enemy machine gun emplacements and directing his fellow Marines as they rendered first aid to the wounded. He was helicoptered to safety alongside his Officer in Charge, Captain Brent Morel, who heroically gave his life for our country when he passed away shortly after the helicopter landed. Due to his extraordinary heroism in combat, Captain Morel was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

During Eddie's recovery in the States, The Fund joined his family at Eddie's hospital bedside and helped with hotel, food, and rental car expenses for his loved ones, allowing the sole focus to remain on Eddie's recovery, but "Most of all, The Fund was great for my morale," said Eddie.

Though Eddie's wounds forever changed his life, his legacy post-injury is awe-inspiring as he has met every challenge head on. The recipient of the Bronze Star with Valor, Eddie received a promotion to sergeant and became the first double amputee to serve on active duty as an instructor for the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program on Marine Corps Base Quantico until he medically retired. The Fund has now assisted this incredible warrior and his family by providing support and vehicle grants, adaptive housing, and school supplies for Eddie's transition to civilian life. In Eddie's words, "Semper Fi & America's Fund has always been there to support me during my most difficult times. **The Fund is like family.**"

| Scan To Hear The Stories



► **Corporal Crabbe**



► **Lieutenant Colonel Vines**



► **Sergeant Wright**



► **Sergeant Maynard**



DEAR SF&AF FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

We hope you enjoyed our spring updates! It is the time of year for rebirth, new growth, basking in the new warmth that spring naturally brings our way, and looking forward to how we can bring new light and hope to those we serve.

After the past couple of years we had, it is easy for us to desire one of two outcomes. First, a return to how it was before, to the “normalcy” pre-pandemic life offered. Or, second, a new slate, which comes from a desire to forget the last couple of years and start fresh. The Fund has found the balance between the two as we have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, the end to the war in Afghanistan, and the continuation of the challenges our service members, veterans, and military families face on a daily basis.

To take one step forward, we must have one foot firmly planted on the ground, in tradition, in staying true to our original mission. For the last 18 years, there are things that have never changed — **our promise** to be with our service members, veterans, and military families for their lifetime of needs; our dedicated staff who stands by those we serve no matter the circumstances the ever-changing outside world provides; and the incredible donors and supporters who sustain our vital mission through their generous assistance. On the other foot, we have all the steps forward we have taken, such as opening The Fund to all service branches; ensuring our Vietnam Veterans are not forgotten; and creating programs to help with crisis, natural disasters, and pandemics — events we could not have fathomed helping with when we began in 2003.

This year brought home how relevant The Fund remains even after 18 years. The Fund was honored to support so many recently, including those injured in the Kabul bombing and those harmed in the 7-ton rollover in North Carolina. As we continue our faithful support of our critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, the generosity and love of our communities never ceases to amaze me. Thank you for continuing to walk alongside our team as we take this mission forward — reaching and touching more lives and bringing more healing and hope to those in our paths.

A very Healthy and Happy Spring to ALL!

Karen Guenther

Karen Guenther
Founder, President, and CEO



28,000
Service
Members,
Veterans,
and Military
Families
Assisted
Since
Inception



PLEASE MAIL ANY FUTURE DONATIONS TO:

Semper Fi & America's Fund
825 College Blvd.
Suite 102, PMB 609
Oceanside, CA 92057

Change of Address Alert!

No longer using our Camp Pendleton, CA addresses



If you mailed donations in the past to our Camp Pendleton address (Box 555193 or Santa Margarita Rd.) please note we no longer use any Camp Pendleton address.