

SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S
FUND

For Our Combat Wounded, Ill, and Injured



STRENGTH · RESILIENCE
INDEPENDENCE



OUR HEROES



Dear Fund Family and Friends, I hope this note finds you and your family well. The last year has certainly been a very challenging and trying one for all of us, but I'm confident that better days lie ahead.

Reflecting on the past year and the work of The Fund, two words come to mind — resilience and gratitude. Despite many dark days, The Fund's work during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic never ceased. Around the clock, our case managers, volunteers, visiting nurses and staff did a tremendous job — as they always do — taking care of the urgent needs of our combat wounded, critically ill, and catastrophically injured members of our U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

I'm also mindful that this work would not have even been possible without

the generous financial support of our donors and partners, who went above and beyond the call of duty in a time of great need.

During its ninth consecutive year, Semper Fi & America's Fund successfully raised more than \$20 million — including a \$10 million match from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation — through the annual Double Down for Veterans Campaign. Last year, The Fund also witnessed a significant (122%) increase in the number of grants to individuals compared to 2019. Our major corporate and foundation partners, which include The Home Depot Foundation, Verisign, The USAA Foundation; Inc., and The Bob Woodruff Foundation, also deserve much gratitude for enabling us to provide immediate, life-essential COVID-19 assistance.

The future of The Fund is incredibly bright and I am excited about all of the new programs and initiatives that we have going on. We cannot and must not,

however, let complacency set in, especially since the pandemic and its effects will be with us for some time to come.

In closing, I invite you to read and reflect on just a few of the incredible stories of the veterans that we have featured in this newsletter. They are truly heroes in every sense of the word and forever part of The Fund family. Their journey — one filled with bravery and hope — should be an inspiration to us all. For me, it is a reminder of why we do what we do every day.

May you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Semper Fidelis,

General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.
Chairman of the Board
Semper Fi & America's Fund



IMPACT



Caregiver Retreats
In 2020: 26
Since Inception: 107



Veteran & Unit Reunions
In 2020: 95
Since Inception: 461



Adaptive Housing
In 2020: \$1,150,000
Since Inception: \$19,002,000



Service Dogs
In 2020: \$474,000
Since Inception: \$3,978,000



Apprenticeship
In 2020: \$793,000
Since Inception: \$4,572,00



Cancer Support
In 2020: \$1,675,000
Since Inception: \$9,400,000



Disaster Relief
In 2020: \$4,351,000
Since Inception: \$5,443,000



Mobility & Adaptive Equipment
In 2020: \$1,734,000
Since Inception: \$18,041,000

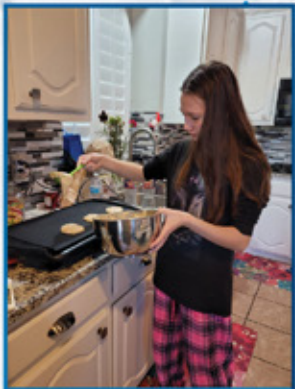
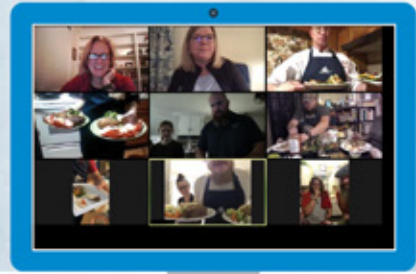
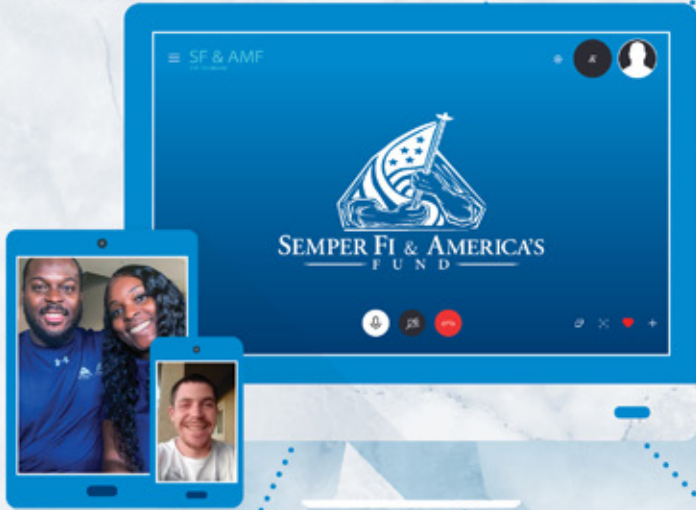
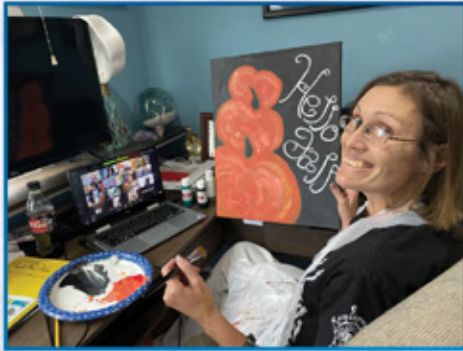


SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

The impact of the pandemic on our programming was significant. One important component of our holistic approach to our programs is creating opportunities for service members, veterans, and families to interact on a personal basis with each other and stay connected. This year we focused on virtual events — caregiver retreats, veteran reunions, unit reunions, and recovery through sport events. The Fund hosted more than **630 virtual events** to respond to the pandemic landscape to keep our military heroes and their families connected.



Meeting 2020 Pandemic Challenges



Our Virtual Events



“ The Fund hasn't forgotten about anybody and that means everything to guys like myself. ”

FINDING PASSION AND PURPOSE POST-INJURY

During his second tour of combat in Iraq, Gunnery Sergeant Paul McQuigg was wounded when a roadside IED detonated by his HUMVEE. The explosion shattered his jaw and resulted in the loss of most of his tongue, nerve damage, and additional injuries. He was transported by medevac to Germany and a week later arrived at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, where he and his family met Semper Fi & America's Fund for the first time.

"The Fund helped my family, especially my mother, navigate the complexities of my medical care," says GySgt McQuigg. "They were able to provide financial assistance so my mom could be with me during my recovery and also take care of my son, Sebastian, who at the time was a young child."

After a year of enduring extensive surgeries (he says he stopped counting at 100 surgeries in 2007 with many more to follow) and spending six months with his mouth wired shut, Paul began to work with the other wounded veterans when he was assigned to the Marine Liaison at Camp Pendleton and then the Marine Corps' Wounded Warrior Battalion.

It was there that he found his calling — working to support not only other wounded brothers and sisters of the armed forces, but also off-base civilians with disabilities. He took his own experience with recovery and post-traumatic growth to give back.

"The Marine Corps is a family and, when you leave

active duty, you lose that sense of belonging. The Fund bridges that gap and with their support, I am in contact with other veterans from all branches who are also struggling with that same sense of loss, many of whom have also had life-altering injuries."

Paul is a proud member of Team Semper Fi — the Fund's adaptive sports program.

"Sometimes all it takes is a simple phone call with another veteran, who immediately understands what you're going through. That kind of care is extremely important, and The Fund helps make that happen."

"None of this would be possible without donations to Semper Fi & America's Fund. To all the supporters, donors, and corporations that make this possible, thank you; with your support, The Fund hasn't forgotten about anybody and that means everything to guys like myself," Gunnery Sergeant McQuigg said, "I have a blessed life compared to others. I stay positive and am at a good place right now."

Soon after retirement, a remarkable thing happened. While suffering near-constant pain from his surgeries, Paul led a pilgrimage to the baths in Lourdes, France. After the visit, Paul states that he has been pain-free since 2015 and believes this was a healing miracle!

These experiences have given Paul incredible insight into recovery post trauma and have left him with an incredible spirit and purpose to give back to others. Paul is a role model and inspiration for us all!



ARMY VIETNAM VETERAN GIVES THANKS TO HIS ‘ANGEL SENT FROM HEAVEN’

Sanders Williams’ life has been defined by a deep commitment to service to both country and community.

For 19 months, Sanders valiantly flew as a Huey helicopter pilot all over Vietnam, performing the most dangerous missions from combat ground support to medevac operations. It was during those hazardous missions that he was seriously wounded and hospitalized, earning a Purple Heart. He recovered from his wounds and distinctively returned to the fight to finish his tour.

Upon return to Fort Bragg and with 90 days left in his enlistment, he was granted early leave to join the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia where he served for 22 years, retiring with the rank of Chief Pilot.

Now suffering from lung disease caused by Agent Orange and the ill effects of his aging war wounds, Sanders reached out to Semper Fi & America’s Fund in May 2019 and as he explains, “That call changed my life completely.”

“My case manager has been professional and helpful

from the very beginning — no matter what the problem. She is truly a blessing, my angel sent from heaven.”

Sanders states that, “I’m doing much better now,” based on The Fund’s assistance with adaptive housing made possible by a grant from The Home Depot Foundation.

Navigating the new realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sanders states that The Fund assisted with “an iPad to help make remote medical visits easier and also helped with food assistance, surprising me with everything from soup, gift cards, and cookies,” all made possible through the LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund for Vietnam Veterans.

Sanders goes on to explain that “more important than the material help is the peace of mind and the little pick me ups they provide when I was feeling down and defeated.”

“Semper Fi & America’s Fund has truly helped make life easier for my wife and me. They came into our life at a critical time when I needed help the most and I’m particularly impressed that they say what they are going to do and then do it. We want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”



“ They came into our life at a critical time when I needed help the most. ”





THE TIM AND SANDY DAY CANINE COMPANIONS PROGRAM

There is no doubt that dogs are something special. Being around a dog is not only good for the soul, but it can lower blood pressure and heart rate, relax muscles, and significantly reduce the amount of cortisol, the stress hormone, your body is producing. Tim and Sandy Day's combined love for Marines and animals has now provided \$1,735,000 to 800 Marines and their constant furry companions. Overall, the program has provided nearly \$4,000,000 of assistance to 1,600 service members of all branches. Tim first started supporting The Fund back in 2004, at The Fund's very inception, when it was known as the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. He believed in the mission and team well before many knew about the small group operating out of Camp Pendleton for the early efforts supporting those coming back in medevacs from Iraq and Afghanistan.

With additional funding from the Timothy T. Day Foundation, in 2012, Semper Fi & America's Fund introduced The Tim & Sandy Day Canine Companions Program, created to unite injured and critically ill service members with service dogs. The program ensures that dogs are properly trained and related expenses in caring for the service dogs are provided, such as vet bills, dog food, and service dog training. Some dogs are trained in mobility to assist amputees while they take off their prosthetics. Others are trained to smell the chemical changes that happen in the body when an anxiety attack or seizure is about to occur. Service dogs are so much more than just pets. For their human companions, they are therapists with four legs, a safe harbor during difficult times, and a gentle nudge when physical or emotional support is needed the most. Dogs know their humans better than the service members know themselves. The following stories are just a few of the thousands of the smallest and furriest support units of Semper Fi & America's Fund. Tim and Sandy Day stated...

“We always believed that the unconditional love of a dog — a devoted companion — could be of great benefit for the healing of our injured warriors.”

A private first class from New Jersey contracted methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in 2010. The MRSA did not respond to treatment, irreparably damaging the

tissue in the private's arms and legs. He underwent emergency surgery that — although ultimately life-saving — resulted in the amputation of all four of his limbs. The private first class, who is in a wheelchair, expressed interest in obtaining a service dog to help him gain independence and to provide him with a sense of safety and security. Funding from the Canine Companions Program offset the cost of purchasing and training his Belgian Malinois service dog, Kimber. Kimber learned how to work off-leash, follow commands to pick up items off the floor, and turn light switches on and off, which is a blessing to both the Marine and his wife, who also uses a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis.

After two deployments to Iraq, the private first class from Illinois began his journey toward meeting his future service dog. During his second deployment, his vehicle struck an IED. The shock wave from the explosion caused severe TBI issues, and the Marine left active duty in 2006. He moved back home, and his sister-in-law became his caregiver as he moved forward in recovery. Several years later, doctors diagnosed him with PTSD and he began inpatient treatment for severe anxiety, memory loss, stuttering, and nightmares. "I was in a bad part of my life at that time dealing with my brain injury and PTSD. On top of that, my dog had recently died, and I didn't want to leave my house." After hearing about Abby, he went to see her in person and adopted the Pitbull. An earlier donation from The Tim and Sandy Day Canine Companions Program in 2012 helped the private first class pay for the training needed to turn Abby into a certified service dog.

Since then, Abby and her Marine have attended college together, where she was a favorite in the laboratory classes, sporting her safety goggles. On graduation day, Abby walked with him to receive "their" diploma. Abby reduces his anxiety in crowded spaces, reminds him to take his medicine, helps him when he is having a nightmare, and can get him to a safe place. Over the years, she has helped him with his stuttering because so many people have approached him to talk about Abby, which forces him to practice almost daily. The Canine Companions Program recently covered Abby's annual checkup, shots, and prescribed medication, ensuring she is healthy and able to help her best friend as he continues to progress and heal.

Deployed with the military police to both Iraq and Afghanistan, a staff sergeant had four deployments between 2005 and 2013. She was diagnosed with extreme PTSD and has found great comfort in her service dog, Cali Bear. "Cali Bear is my 5-year-old Black Lab/Golden service dog that I utilize for both mobility and PTSD symptoms. What does she mean to me? I can tell you in just two words: The world." Her service dog has become her right hand, calming her when her anxiety gets high and bringing her back up when her depression starts to

take over. The Tim & Sandy Day Canine Companions Program helped cover Cali Bear's medical bills.

The master sergeant was born and raised in Pennsylvania, attending boot camp at Parris Island, SC, immediately following high school graduation. After one deployment to Afghanistan and two to Iraq, the Marine returned to Iraq for the third time in 2007. While conducting combat operations with the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, his vehicle struck and activated a pressure plate IED. The blast from the device amputated his legs from the knee down. Told it would be a year before he could walk, the master sergeant surpassed expectations taking his first steps only two months after his injury. He received a Purple Heart, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V," the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" and 4 Gold Stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon with 2 Gold Stars. Medically retired in December 2009, the Marine lives in California with his wife and four children. Since his injury, Semper Fi & America's Fund has provided support for the master sergeant and his family, allowing them to concentrate on his recovery and lengthy hospital stays throughout seven surgeries. One of his first needs was a service dog to assist him with balance issues and managing his PTSD symptoms. Because of his height, the master sergeant needs a large dog, and, in 2007, we helped him with the purchase of his first service dog, a Bullmastiff named Zeus. Unfortunately, after nine years of dedicated service, Zeus passed away. In 2017, funding from the Tim and Sandy Day Canine Companions Program offset the cost for the purchase and training of a new service dog; a Cane Corso named Murphy. The program provided a gift card to help the Marine keep up with Murphy's 8–10 pounds of dog food per week, ensuring that his extra-large support system stays well-fed and healthy.

The corporal deployed to Afghanistan with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, and experienced numerous IED blasts and multiple firefights. In June 2011, the Marine's brother, also serving in the same unit, stepped on an IED and had to be medevaced to a trauma center in Afghanistan. After his brother stabilized, the corporal flew with him to Bethesda, where his brother, unfortunately, succumbed to his injuries. After emergency family leave, the Marine wanted to return to his unit, but he began suffering from anxiety and depression. Assigned to the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East and sent to the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed, the corporal received diagnoses of PTSD and a TBI. He subsequently completed an inpatient stay at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he learned valuable strategies to progress and heal. He was medically retired in 2013 and has focused on his recovery. Last year, he received a service dog, Nash, a Golden Retriever, to help him manage his PTSD symptoms. The Canine Companions Program provided travel funds so the corporal could bond and train with Nash during his service dog training.

W E L C O M E

On April 1st, 2021, Vail Veterans Programs (VVP) merged its core program operations to Semper Fi & America's Fund. We want to welcome the Vail Veteran military heroes and their families into our Semper Fi & America's Fund circle of support. We have known VVP since its inception and have deeply valued Founder and President Cheryl Jensen and her team's love and passion. Semper Fi & America's Fund is excited to incorporate the Summer Family Program, Golf in the Rockies, Winter Family Program, Winter Mountain Adventure, and Military Caregiver Retreats and Reunions into its operations. We know VVP's mission will continue on through our support of military heroes and our families and the continued support of the Vail community.

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Founder of Vail Veteran Program

Financial Stewardship

Revenues:

Donations	39,074,000
Investment & Other Income	674,000
Total Revenues.....	<u>39,748,000</u>

Expenses:

Programs	35,336,000
Fundraising & Administration.....	3,499,000
Total Expenses.....	<u>38,835,000</u>

Change in Net Assets..... 913,000

Net Assets, Beginning of Year.....31,961,000

Net Assets, End of Year.....32,874,000



Semper Fi & America's Fund Financial Statement Summary — Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020

“Once again, it is with deep gratitude for the men and women who give so unselfishly of themselves in defense of our country that we enclose our donation.”

“We are so proud to be a part of such a strong effort in bringing a better quality of life to our service members. Job well done!”

“Your efforts are extremely needed and so important in this trying time, and your assistance has helped so many families in greater need because of COVID-19.”

Give with Confidence in Support of our Mission

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



BEHIND THE SCENES INTERVIEWS



1) Open Camera and Point at QR Code



2) Click Link to Open Internet Browser



3) Enjoy Video Interview



DEAR FUND FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

We hope you enjoyed our updates and stories of resilience and independence. On May 17th, we celebrated our 17th Anniversary. As I look back over these 17 years, almost two decades, I see so many familiar faces of those who locked arms with our team to make sure our wounded, ill, and injured service members and military families in need were not alone in their recovery, to make sure they would never be forgotten, to make sure we honored their sacrifice and celebrated their life. These faces are our staff, our volunteers, our nonprofit partners, and our amazing supporters. What an amazing journey this has been for so many!

Although it has been such a blessing to be able to assist these brave men and women, we have found they have given us much more than we could have ever imagined. Through The Fund, we were able to witness first-hand the strength and resiliency the service members who returned from combat possessed — qualities we use as fuel for our work and in our everyday actions. As we sat in the hospitals in the early days with the incoming wounded from Iraq and Afghanistan we formed lifelong bonds with not only the military members but their moms, dads, husbands, wives, and children — Bonds that continued with birthdays, christenings, weddings, and other family events we have cherished over the years. Our Vietnam Veterans have taught us that the effects of service can be enduring, and many conditions do not simply go away over time. But these same remarkable individuals have taught us about perseverance and the power of engaged citizens in their journey after service. Best of all, we are able to repay our heroes, in any way possible, for their service and sacrifice while defending our nation and our freedom — a mission that is humbling and so rewarding.

We know there is still much work ahead and we know these same faces and many new friends will continue this quest of service for our military heroes and their families.

Thank you for your love, passion, and care!

Wishing you ALL a healthy, happy, and active summer! Full steam ahead!

Karen Guenther

With much love,
Karen





SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

For Our Combat Wounded, Ill, and Injured



Donations may be made online:
TheFund.org

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

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



A+ from CharityWatch,
one of only two Veteran nonprofits to
receive their highest rating

"4-Star" Charity Navigator rating for
ten consecutive years; an achievement
attained by only 2% of charities

Awarded the GuideStar Platinum
Seal of Transparency

26,000

SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS
AND FAMILIES SINCE INCEPTION

4,739

COVID SUPPORT GRANTS

April 2021

WELCOMED VAIL VETERANS
PROGRAM TO THE SF & AF FAMILY!