



NEW HORIZONS: VIRTUAL REALITY FOR VETERANS



STRONGTIMES

A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact.

VOLUME VI, NO. 4 2023

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A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS MEEK

Dear Patriots ,

As a 9/11 survivor, I was at Ground Zero during the horrific attacks and my experiences that day inspired a desire in me to give back to the men and women who serve in our

country's Armed Forces. SoldierStrong's mission is to help our nation's heroes take their next steps forward, just like me and many other Americans took our next steps forward to safety through ash and debris on one of the most harrowing days in our country's history.

When I started this journey, I soon realized that there is an almost innate desire woven into the fabric of our nation to give back, particularly to those who fight for our freedoms both at home and abroad. Even now, fourteen years after the founding of SoldierStrong, I continue to be in awe of the American spirit to uplift our military members and veterans and the willingness of so many to contribute in meaningful ways, both large and small, to ensure that our mission

continues to be a reality day after day.

As we head into the remaining months of 2023, our organization remains incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support we have received from patriots across the country in the last nine months and have enjoyed celebrating milestones with our supporters, including our 30th donation of a SoldierSuit to help paralyzed and injured veterans in Augusta, Georgia stand and walk again.

Even with the year drawing to a close, our organization still has plenty of work before us and plenty of time to make a tremendous impact on the lives of many more injured veterans in the remaining weeks ahead. I humbly ask that you continue keeping injured veterans and SoldierStrong's mission at the forefront of your thoughts and prayers.

God bless,

Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman



SOLDIERSTRONG IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAINS CLINICIANS TO DEPLOY BRAVEMIND VIRTUAL REALITY THERAPY

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

+



In a groundbreaking collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, SoldierStrong recently facilitated training sessions at the Ernest Childers VA in Tulsa, Oklahoma and the Biloxi VA Medical Center in Biloxi, Mississippi to train a group of the federal agency's clinicians from across the country to deploy the innovative BraveMind virtual reality therapy to treat veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress (PTS).

In an effort to contribute to the reduction to the current rate of **17 veteran suicides per day**, SoldierStrong has donated 30 BraveMind systems to VA facilities since the fall of 2019. Through a process known as prolonged exposure therapy, users are able to recreate the scenes of traumatic wartime memories in the VR headset which over time de-conditions emotional responses to those memories in a controlled environment.

“VETERANS END UP SHARING THINGS WITH THEIR CLINICIANS THAT THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE OTHERWISE SHARED WITH THEM, ALL DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY’RE IMMERSSED IN THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT THAT REALLY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES THAT MIGHT NOT HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN PRESENT IN THEIR SESSIONS WITH THEIR CLINICIANS.”

- VA Innovation Specialist Elizabeth Williams



As an organization SoldierStrong is not simply committed to donating revolutionary medical technology, but ensuring that once donated, clinicians have the training that they require to optimize use of the technology in order to better the lives of as many veterans as possible. In fact, BraveMind has proven so effective that 65% of users in a study noted that their PTS symptoms lessened or disappeared completely after completing the therapy. SoldierStrong's ultimate mission is to ensure that BraveMind is accessible in every VA facility in the nation for every veteran who needs it.

To learn more about the recent BraveMind training sessions check out the articles below:

[Biloxi VA Introduces Virtual Reality Therapy for Veterans](#)

[SoldierStrong Donates Virtual Reality Therapy to Coast VA Clinics](#)



PATRIOTS DISPLAY SUPPORT FOR OUR MISSION AT RECENT EVENTS TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG

SoldierStrong recently hosted events to raise awareness and funds to help America's military veterans take their next steps forward in life after service both in New York City and Philadelphia. Our organization continues to be overwhelmed with the strong showing of support displayed by red, white and blue-loving Americans from across the country and are thankful to all of those who took the time out of their busy schedules to join us in uplifting our mission. We were touched to be joined by a diverse array of influential figures, including esteemed journalists, members of congress, prominent faith leaders, and SoldierStrong Advisory Board and Board of Directors members. Events like these contribute tremendously to our ability to complete desperately needed donations of advanced medical technologies to veterans who need them.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK CITY INCLUDE:

- Martha MacCallum, Fox News Anchor and SoldierStrong Advisory Board Member, delivered remarks on SoldierStrong's behalf
- A demonstration of the SoldierSuit by SoldierStrong Ambassador U.S. Navy Veteran Laura Cowen
- A presentation of the BraveMind virtual reality system by developer Dr. Albert "Skip" Rizzo of the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM PHILADELPHIA INCLUDE:

- Hon. Jon Runyan, former University of Michigan and National Football League (NFL) standout and SoldierStrong Advisory Board Member, served as keynote speaker
- A demonstration of the SoldierSuit by SoldierStrong Ambassador U.S. Navy Veteran Laura Cowen
- A demonstration of the iBOT® Personal Mobility Device by SoldierStrong Ambassador U.S. Army Veteran Peter Townsend



TOGETHER, WE'RE CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE. THANK YOU!



SOLDIERSTRONG GAINS MEMBERSHIP TO COMBINED ARMS INSTITUTES' VETERAN AND MILITARY ECOSYSTEM

SoldierStrong is honored to announce that our organization has been accepted as a member of the [Combined Arms Institutes' Veteran and Military Ecosystem](#).

With a goal to deliver innovative technology solutions that ultimately improve the quality of life for veterans and their families, Combined Arms coalesces veteran-focused nonprofits nationwide in an effort to streamline connections with those who need their services. The organization accomplishes this through a community resource referral system, where veterans find service providers, such as SoldierStrong, in the areas of community, wellness, professional support and essential services.

“AS AN ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH ASSISTING AMERICA'S MILITARY VETERANS IN TAKING THEIR NEXT STEPS FORWARD IT SEEMS ONLY NATURAL THAT OUR OWN NEXT STEPS FORWARD WOULD INCLUDE JOINING COMBINED ARMS TO REACH AN EVEN GREATER NUMBER OF VETERANS WHO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BENEFIT FROM OUR SERVICES.”

- Chris, SoldierStrong Co-founder and Chairman



MULTISTACK HOSTS ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG AND OSCAR MIKE FOUNDATION

Multistack hosted the organization's annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, August 7th at the La Crosse Country Club in Onalaska, Wisconsin.

It was a record setting event! In total **\$225,000 was raised** to benefit both SoldierStrong and our friends at the Oscar Mike Foundation. For those who may not know, this event is put together in part each year by a family member of Sgt Dan Rose, who was the first ever recipient of a SoldierSuit donated by our organization. Simply put, when attending this event it is a family affair!

Year after year we remain incredibly thankful for the work put forth by Multistack to make this event a success and for the long-time support from those who attend the event of our mission.



MULTISTACK
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC
— 2023 —
AUGUST 7TH - ONALASKA, WI



SOLDIERSTRONG WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER ZACHARY SHEINBERG



SoldierStrong is proud to welcome Zachary Sheinberg to the Board of Directors! Mr. Sheinberg is the founder and Managing Partner of Wind Raven, a privately-held real estate investment, development and advisory company based in New York, NY, which focuses opportunistically on hospitality and industrial development projects in the Northeast, Southeast and Southern California. Prior to founding Wind Raven, he was the Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of HC Capital Group, a family real estate investment office based in Miami, Florida. Mr. Sheinberg is a graduate of the undergraduate Joseph Wharton Honors Program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Michigan Law School and the Wharton MBA Program. He is an adjunct faculty member in the Finance Department at the University of Michigan Ross, where he teaches a real estate development course. He is the former host of The Real Estate Hour on SiriusXM Channel 132, Business Radio.

SOLDIERSTRONG WELCOMES STEVE STARK AS SOLDIERSUIT PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Steve Stark joins SoldierStrong as the SoldierSuit Program Director after a successful 25 year career at Intel Corporation where he specialized in bridging the gap between hardware and software, ensuring that Intel's cutting-edge technologies had compatible software ecosystems upon launch. Steve was drawn to a position with SoldierStrong out of an interest to give back to a community that he cares about while still utilizing skills cultivated during the span of his career. As SoldierStrong continues to bridge the gap between veterans and the technology they need to take their next steps forward, we are excited to take advantage of the opportunity in Steve's ability to help us achieve that mission. We are grateful for his creativity and generosity!



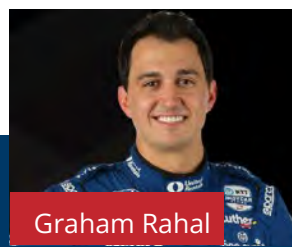
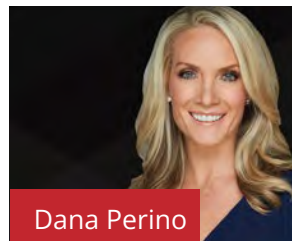
WELCOME TO THE SOLDIERSTRONG TEAM!



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



Scan to visit site

JOIN THE 2023 PATRIOTS PROGRAM

There is still time! Donate \$20 per month for the rest of the year to support SoldierStrong's mission to reduce the number of veteran suicides and provide PTS treatment options. As a thank you, you'll receive a unique gift.

Join us now by [clicking on this link](#) or scanning the QR code to make a difference.



Scan to Join

The advertisement features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. It reads: 'Support SoldierStrong's Efforts to Provide BraveMind Virtual Reality Systems to Veterans Affairs Facilities Throughout the Country Through Our 2023 PATRIOTS PROGRAM Only \$20 per month'. Below the text are the SoldierStrong logo and a circular logo with a red and white design. On the right side of the ad is a photograph of a grey t-shirt with the SoldierStrong logo and the words 'SOLDIERSTRONG' printed on it.

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 SoldierStrong.org 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
- SoldierStrong participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If you are a current or retired Federal Employee interested in supporting our work through the workplace charity program, please note that our **5-digit number is #59778**
- To make an in-kind donation, set up a matching gifts program, or to request more information, contact SoldierStrong via email at info@soldierstrong.org 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:



GE Foundation



BECOME A PARTNER OR CORPORATE SPONSOR

In the past ten 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

