



SOLDIERSTRONG

15 YEARS STRONG ★ 2009-2024

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF EMPOWERING LIVES, ONE STEP AT A TIME

STRONGTIMES

A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact.

VOLUME VII, NO. 2 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- Pg. 2 United Rentals Makes Impactful Gift to SoldierStrong
- Pg. 2 SoldierStrong, USC Sign License Agreement
- Pg. 5 Help us celebrate our 15th anniversary



A MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRIS MEEK

At SoldierStrong, we are driven to ensure veterans have the resources they need. While we know we can't change the world entirely, we believe that small and large actions together create meaningful impact. This

embodies the spirit of America, serving as a beacon of hope and an example for others.

Over a decade ago, SoldierStrong adapted to emerging challenges by donating cutting-edge medical technologies and educational opportunities. Our goal remains simple: to empower veterans and their families to take their next steps forward, changing their lives even in small but significant ways.

But we have been fortunate enough to see firsthand that the impacts of cutting edge medical technology and access to higher education are often anything but small.

Our scholarships for veterans drive intellectual empowerment.

Our SoldierSuit robotic exoskeletons provide physical empowerment for paralyzed and injured veterans.

Our BraveMind virtual reality system to treat post-traumatic stress addresses veterans' most urgent needs through the fostering of mental empowerment.

When we are all empowered as individuals, particularly the heroes who so selflessly served our nation, we then all have more to contribute in efforts to change the world around us for the better.

As we head into the season of giving, I ask that you reflect on what you are giving to the world around you and more importantly, hold steadfast in your giving to better the lives of the veterans in your community.

God bless,

Dr. Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman



UNITED RENTALS RAISES OVER \$200,000 FOR SOLDIERSTRONG & OPERATION HOMEFRONT THROUGH TURNS FOR TROOPS

United Rentals Inc., the world's largest equipment rental company, in partnership with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, **raised \$210,900 for SoldierStrong** and our friends at Operation Homefront through the Turns For Troops program this year. 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.



"It is not just in words but in actions that we as Americans are all called to give back to those who serve our country. United Rentals is a shining example of that action - from their commitment to hiring veterans, to giving veterans causes a national platform through the Turns For Troops program, to their monetary support of SoldierStrong over the past decade, they have shown time and again that they are ready to step up for those veterans who stepped up for us all."

- Chris Meek, SoldierStrong Founder and Chairman

SOLDIERSTRONG AND USC INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES SIGN LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR BATTLE BUDDY

USC Institute for
Creative Technologies

SoldierStrong in partnership with the University of Southern California Institute for Creative Technologies (USC-ICT), announced a license agreement for Battle Buddy in early November.

Battle Buddy is a virtual human-led mental health and wellness application that promotes resiliency among veterans at risk for suicide. The new license agreement enables SoldierStrong to create custom Battle Buddy modules for iOS, with optional use of wearable technologies (e.g. Apple Watch, Garmin) and interactive intelligent agents. The Battle Buddy technology leverages the Rapid Integrations & Development Environment (RIDE) real-time prototyping platform, developed at USC-ICT and included in the license to SoldierStrong.

"This agreement allows us to evolve the prototype and expand our reach, connecting with veterans not currently engaged with the VA—whether they're transitioning from active duty, younger veterans, or those in rural and frontier areas facing barriers to care"

- Sharon Mozgai, Director of Virtual Human Therapeutics Lab at ICT and Project Leader on Battle Buddy



MULTISTACK HOSTS ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG

Multistack hosted the organization's 10th annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, July 29 at the La Crosse Country Club in Onalaska, Wisconsin. **Over 150 Americans** from coast to coast (and several Canadians too!) attended the event and set a record, **raising \$235,000 to benefit both SoldierStrong** and our dear friends at the Oscar Mike Foundation.

The Multistack Charity Golf Classic was first established and is still facilitated by a family member of Sgt Dan Rose, who was the first ever recipient of a SoldierSuit donated by our organization in 2013. This year, we were honored to have U.S. Army veteran, Paralympian and SoldierStrong Ambassador Johnnie Williams attend the event with his son, where he demonstrated how he uses the SolderSuit to stand and walk despite paralysis and spoke intimately about the device's life-changing impacts.

Registration for the 2025 Multistack Charity Golf Classic opens in late 2024.



THE GRAHAM AND COURTNEY RAHAL FOUNDATION HOSTS 4TH ANNUAL VINO FOR VETS EVENT TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG



Combining their love for fine wines with their passion for our military veterans, The Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation (GCRF) hosted the organization's fourth annual Vino For Vets event from October 3-6 in beautiful Napa Valley, California, with net proceeds benefiting United Rentals' Turns For Troops / SoldierStrong.

Hosted during the harvest season, Vino For Vets is a couples-exclusive, weekend-long wine experience. The GCRF team once again carried out impeccable work in researching and selecting some of the most sought-after, rare and delicious wines throughout Napa, Calistoga, Yountville and Oakville. 43 patriots who share a love of wine and a collective interest to better the lives of our nation's heroes attended the event.

SoldierStrong is tremendously grateful for GCRF's tireless support of our mission, not only providing monetary support to assist our organization in donating revolutionary medical technologies to veterans but also giving us a vital platform to reach an even greater number of Americans who find value in our work.



DONATE TO SOLDIERSTRONG THROUGH THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

Current federal employees and retirees can now support SoldierStrong's mission to donate revolutionary medical technologies to Veterans Affairs medical facilities by donating through the **Combined Federal Campaign at GiveCFC.org** using the following number: **#59778**.

Here are the meaningful ways you can choose to support SoldierStrong through the CFC:

1. Donate to SoldierStrong through payroll deduction (CFC donors' favorite giving option). As a CFC vetted charity, you can pledge directly to our mission. Just \$5 per paycheck to SoldierStrong makes a big difference.
2. Already donated? Consider increasing your recurring gift or adding a one-time gift.
3. Invite co-workers and federal retirees you know to continue supporting their favorite causes through the CFC.



THE SOLDIERSTRONG APPAREL STORE HAS ALL OF YOUR FALL CLOTHING ESSENTIALS!

As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, we invite you to embrace the season of giving by purchasing all of your fall clothing essentials from the SoldierStrong apparel store! Explore our cozy hoodies, sweatshirts and seasonal accessories from brands like Nike, Vineyard Vines and more. 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.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHOP





CELEBRATE 15 YEARS OF SOLDIERSTRONG!

SoldierStrong is proud to celebrate our 15th anniversary! When the organization began in 2009, founder Dr. 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 million 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 just \$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



NEXT STEPS FORWARD WITH DR. CHRIS MEEK

Join SoldierStrong co-founder and chairman Dr. 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 Dr. 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.



Col. Greg Gadson



Dr. Alveda King



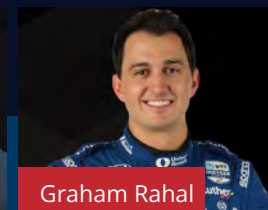
Dana Perino



Charles Haley



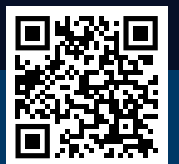
Martha MacCallum



Graham Rahal



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VISIT SITE



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 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
- 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](tel: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

