



# POWERING PROGRESS: HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS VETERANS TAKE THE NEXT STEP

## STRONGTIMES

*A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact.*

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### A MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRIS MEEK

Dear SoldierStrong Supporters,

Each quarter, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude as I reflect on the extraordinary support our mission receives from individuals and organi-

zations across the country. This past spring was no exception.

We were honored to once again stand alongside the Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation at their annual Drivers Tournament in Indianapolis. Witnessing Army veteran Sgt. Dan Rose walk again using the SoldierSuit - a donation made possible by your generosity - was a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

Equally inspiring was the support we received at various events to benefit Soldierstrong that took place across the country - some hosted by longtime supporters like our generous friends at United Rentals and others welcomed

many patriots new to our mission. (If you are interested in hosting an event to benefit SoldierStrong, please contact [info@soldierstrong.org](mailto:info@soldierstrong.org) for more information).

Because of the commitment to uplift our mission demonstrated by so many Americans, SoldierStrong is proud to donate our 31st BraveMind system to treat post-9/11 veterans living with the devastating impacts of post-traumatic stress.

The belief in our work that permeates from coast to coast enables us to move the needle on some of the most pressing health challenges facing America's veterans - from physical rehabilitation to mental health. Thank you for taking these next steps forward with us.

With gratitude,

Dr. Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman



# THE GRAHAM AND COURTNEY RAHAL FOUNDATION HOSTS ANNUAL DRIVERS TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG

The Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation (GCRF) hosted the organization's annual Drivers Tournament, a premier charity golf event, on Thursday, May 22 at Brickyard Crossing in Indianapolis, IN ahead of the Indy 500. U.S. Army Veteran and SoldierStrong Ambassador Sgt Dan Rose demonstrated how he walks again despite paralysis with the help of Ekso Bionics' exoskeleton, also known as the SoldierSuit, donated by SoldierStrong. This scramble-format tournament, powered by United Rentals, attracts participants from across the country to raise funds for the foundation's beneficiaries: Turns For Troops / SoldierStrong and One Cure.



Thanks to GCRF, the sponsors, activators, donors and volunteers, it was a successful day out on the golf course that drew tremendous support for SoldierStrong's mission and provided us with a platform to raise awareness about how the SoldierSuit positively impacts the lives and health of veterans. Graham and Courtney Rahal's unwavering commitment to helping our nation's heroes means the world not just to our mission but to countless veterans from coast to coast.

## UNITED RENTALS & GRAHAM RAHAL SUPPORT VETERANS THROUGH RIDING WITH RAHAL INITIATIVE AT THE INDY 500

NTT IndyCar Series driver and SoldierStrong Advisory Board member Graham Rahal offered race fans a unique opportunity to honor veterans through the Riding with Rahal initiative, which featured the names of veterans on Rahal's No. 15 car, sponsored by United Rentals, during the 109th Running of the Indianapolis 500 in May. A minimum \$50 donation to the Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation secured tributes, with proceeds benefiting Turns for Troops / SoldierStrong.

Rahal and Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing have supported Turns for Troops since United Rentals became a sponsor of the team. Over the past decade, United Rentals has donated **more than \$2.6 million through Turns for Troops** - a total that Riding with Rahal contributed to significantly this year.

*"United Rentals and Graham Rahal's dedication to honoring our nation's veterans and raising awareness of the challenges they face through the Riding with Rahal initiative has had a profound impact on SoldierStrong's mission. The visibility and generosity generated through this initiative not only celebrate the service of these brave individuals but also directly contribute to improving their lives through revolutionary technologies like the SoldierSuit"*

*- Chris Meek, SoldierStrong Founder and Chairman*

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TROOPS**  
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*A Peek Inside the*

# TEXAS HOLD 'EM VIRTUAL POKER TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG

On Tuesday, March 25, SoldierStrong board members Jeremy Wien and Zachary Sheinberg hosted the No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Virtual Poker Tournament to Benefit SoldierStrong. The event was intended to shine a light on veterans mental health. U.S. Marine Corps veteran and SoldierStrong Ambassador Chris Merkle served as the keynote speaker, highlighting how undergoing therapy with BraveMind helped eliminate his symptoms of post-traumatic stress (PTS), complete his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and now provide therapy to fellow veterans with PTS at a VA facility in Southern California.

Valued supporters from across the country participated in the virtual tournament's success and helped raise valuable funds for SoldierStrong. **Because of the generosity of those involved, we are honored to announce the donation of our 31st BraveMind virtual reality system to treat post-traumatic stress to Confidential Care, a private psychiatric and mental health agency where clinicians specialize in working with disabled veterans, in Wasilla, Alaska.**

The United States loses 17 veterans a day to suicide - making the BraveMind virtual reality systems we donate a critical option for those veterans seeking mental health services. This will be the first time that the BraveMind technology will be available to veterans in the great state of Alaska. We are incredibly grateful to those who participated in the tournament for their commitment to uplifting the mental health and wellness of our nation's heroes.





## UNITED RENTALS' CUSTOMER APPRECIATION CRAWFISH BOIL HIGHLIGHTS SOLDIERSTRONG

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The United Rentals' branch in Beaumont, TX hosted their annual Customer Appreciation Crawfish Boil in May highlighting SoldierStrong's mission. Over 15,000 lbs. of crawfish was served to more than 7,000 guests, all with the amazing Casey Donahew Band rocking the stage.

SoldierStrong is especially grateful to everyone who participated in the raffle benefiting our mission - thanks to the generosity of many, more than \$20,000 in funds were raised to help America's veterans take their next steps forward.

A heartfelt thank you to United Rentals and all the event sponsors for your continued support and commitment to those who have served. We would be unable to fulfill our mission without the continued support of United Rentals year after year. We're already counting down the days until next year!



## THE FULL CUCKOO FOUNDATION HOSTS ANNUAL CHARITY BAR CRAWL WITH SOLDIERSTRONG AS THE BENEFICIARY

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This year, the Full Cuckoo Foundation chose SoldierStrong as the beneficiary of the organization's Annual Charity Bar Crawl in Mystic, CT. What started out in 2017 as a fun night out has grown into one of the most anticipated charity events of the year in the southeastern part of the state. Several hundred attendees enjoyed drink specials at a plethora of stops, along with games, entertainment, and a special after-party. The \$18,000 raised from the event will support SoldierStrong's efforts to assist injured veterans through the donation of revolutionary medical technology.

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who came out to show their support in our organization's home state of Connecticut. Your generosity helps SoldierStrong provide revolutionary medical technology to Veterans Affairs medical centers and individual veterans nationwide. Thank you to those who crawled with purpose in support of our nation's heroes!

## HONOR AND RESPECT PARTNERS WITH SOLDIERSTRONG TO ADDRESS VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH

SoldierStrong is honored to continue our partnership with Honor and Respect, the patriot-owned and veteran-operated makers of athletic shoes and apparel with a mission to make mental health a priority for all military veterans, first responders and their families.

You can look good, feel good and do good by rocking your very own pair of Honor and Respect athletic shoes. When you purchase their Military Shoes at [www.honor-respect.com](http://www.honor-respect.com) and use promo code "SoldierStrong" at check, \$10 of every purchase will go toward SoldierStrong's mission to provide BraveMind virtual reality systems to Veterans Affairs medical facilities to treat veterans living with the devastating impacts of post-traumatic stress (PTS).

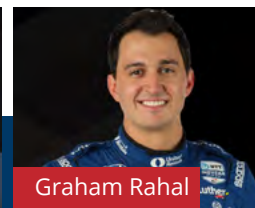
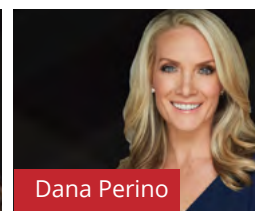
Purchase your [Honor and Respect shoes here!](#)



## 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.



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*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](https://SoldierStrong.org) to make a donation today
- Host a fundraising event which benefits SoldierStrong. Contact [events@soldierstrong.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://SoldierStrong.org) | **Call:** 888.898.3235 | **Email:** [info@soldierstrong.org](mailto:info@soldierstrong.org)

