



WALKING BESIDE OUR HEROES: A SEASON OF TRANSFORMATION



STRONGTIMES

A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact.

VOLUME VIII, NO. 3, 2025

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A MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRIS MEEK

SoldierStrong's mission has always been clear: to honor those who've served by equipping them with the resources and medical technology they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. Each day, I'm moved by the courage our injured veterans demonstrate in life after service and grateful for supporters like you who make this important work possible.

This quarter's newsletter showcases the tangible difference we're making together, from groundbreaking rehabilitation technology to expanded mental health support. You'll read about new partnerships, inspiring veteran stories, and opportunities to deepen your involvement in our mission.

Every contribution, every act of support, brings us closer to a future where every veteran has access to the care and tools they deserve. None of this would be possible without you.

Thank you for standing with us and with those who've stood for our country.

God bless,

Dr. Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman



STANDING TALL: HOW SOLDIERSTRONG'S PARTNERSHIP WITH EKSO BIONICS IS TRANSFORMING VETERANS' LIVES



eksoBIONICS

When Senior Chief Jesus Fernando Ruiz, a Navy Veteran, was injured in the line of duty he thought the world he knew was over. Like many veterans facing life-changing injuries, Fernando believed he would have to adapt to a completely different way of life.

But thanks to exoskeletons developed by Ekso Bionics - wearable robotic suits which aid injured and paralyzed individuals in walking again - Fernando's story is one of hope and resilience. SoldierStrong's pioneering partnership to bring Ekso Bionics' exoskeletons to veterans nationwide has allowed even more veterans to experience that same hope and resilience as Fernando.

"I felt normal again," Fernando recalls about the first time he used the Ekso Bionics exoskeleton. "Like I used to before my injury."

SoldierStrong is proud to have donated 30 of Ekso Bionics' cutting-edge exoskeleton suits, we've dubbed "SoldierSuits," to Veterans Affairs medical facilities and individual veterans since 2013.

"We're honored to join forces with Ekso Bionics to provide revolutionary technologies and innovative advancements to improve the lives of veterans and their families at no cost," said Dr. Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman of SoldierStrong. "Exoskeletons bring much needed rehabilitation support to our valued veterans enabling them to



achieve the mobility freedom that they deserve."

The innovative engineering of Ekso Bionics' Indego Personal exoskeleton makes it particularly valuable for veterans like Fernando, who uses it not just for rehabilitation but for daily activities that restore dignity and independence.

"The biggest purpose for it is rehab," Fernando explains. "I have used it to stand up in front of the microwave and wash my dishes. I can now reach my cabinets and the plates."

Perhaps the most powerful testament to the technology's

"It's not just about walking again — it's about standing tall after everything you've been through. It's about reclaiming your independence, your confidence, and those everyday moments that make life meaningful. Every step forward is a reminder that hope and progress are still possible."

*Dr. Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman,
SoldierStrong*





impact comes from Fernando's personal life. The 51-year-old Navy veteran, who served from 1993 to 2016, found that the exoskeleton didn't just restore his mobility - it restored precious moments with his family.

"I have a five-year-old son, and the first time he saw me walking with the exoskeleton he said, 'Hey, Papi, you can walk, Papi,' and I was like, 'Yes!' Seeing him all excited just drives me. Being able to walk again pushes me toward doing more and more."

Senior Chief Jesus Fernando Ruiz, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

This progress is made possible through the VA's memorandum of understanding with SoldierStrong and the unwavering commitment of VA therapists, whose expertise and dedication are essential in helping veterans successfully adapt to exoskeleton technology and reclaim their independence.

Through stories like Fernando's, we see that the impact of this partnership extends far beyond the technology itself. It's about restoring dignity, independence, and hope to those who have sacrificed so much for our country. It's about a father being able to stand tall in front of his son. It's about veterans reclaiming not just their mobility, but their future.

As Fernando's experience demonstrates, sometimes the most profound transformations begin with a single step - and thanks to SoldierStrong's partnership with Ekso Bionics, that step is made possible for veterans across the country.



MULTISTACK HOSTS ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG

Multistack, Inc., a leading distributor of modular water chillers, hosted the business's 11th annual Charity Golf Classic on Monday, August 11 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 fundraising record, raising **\$250,000 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. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$1 million in support of our nation's injured heroes.



"Multistack has been a tremendous supporter of our nation's military and veterans. Their commitment to uplifting SoldierStrong's mission year after year has directly enabled thousands of paralyzed veterans to do the once unthinkable: stand and walk again"

- Chris Meek, SoldierStrong Founder and Chairman

SOLDIERSTRONG JOINS FACE THE FIGHT COALITION TO COMBAT VETERAN SUICIDE

SoldierStrong is honored to announce its acceptance into the Face the Fight coalition, a nationwide initiative dedicated to reducing the veteran suicide rate. Launched in 2023 by the Humana Foundation, Reach Resilience, and USAA, Face the Fight has quickly grown into a network of more than 250 organizations, all committed to raising awareness, breaking stigma, and engaging communities around this urgent issue. Together, coalition members have already impacted more than 355,000 lives through proven interventions.



"Veteran suicide is a crisis that demands immediate action and collaborative solutions," said Dr. Chris Meek. "By joining forces with Face the Fight, we can amplify our impact and reach more veterans who need support during their darkest moments."

This partnership aligns with SoldierStrong's mission to provide veterans with life-changing tools and technologies that empower them to take their next steps forward after service. Now, as part of the Face the Fight coalition, the organization will expand its reach and strengthen its role in providing critical mental health resources for those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.



SOLDIERSTRONG CO-FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN CHRIS MEEK FEATURED IN AMERICAN ESSENCE



We are proud to share “A Path to Healing Forges a Hero,” a powerful feature in *American Essence* chronicling the personal journey of our co-founder and chairman, Dr. Chris Meek. What began as small acts of compassion in the wake of 9/11 evolved into a life’s mission: empowering veterans, building hope, and forging resilience in the face of adversity. The article traces Chris’s path, from moments of reflection at Ground Zero to the bold creation of nonprofits, including SoldierStrong, that have transformed lives across the nation.

In telling Chris’s story, the piece not only celebrates one man’s dedication, but also illuminates the spirit behind SoldierStrong’s mission. We hope you find its reflections inspiring, affirming that every step we take together, every donation, every volunteer hour, compounds into something larger than ourselves.



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READ THE FULL
ARTICLE HERE!

SOLDIERSTRONG TO DONATE 31ST BRAVEMIND VIRTUAL REALITY SYSTEM



Due to the generosity of valued supporters from across the country throughout 2025, SoldierStrong is honored to announce the donation of our 31st BraveMind virtual reality system to treat post-traumatic stress (PTS) in post-9/11 veterans. The donation will be made 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.



SOLDIERSTRONG, GIER PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCE “THE HEROISM AND RESILIENCY OF 9/11” DOCUMENTARY

SoldierStrong, in partnership with award-winning filmmaker Michael Gier, is developing a powerful documentary titled “*The Heroism and Resiliency of 9/11*,” scheduled for release in 2026. Narrated by Gary Sinise, the film tells the story of 9/11 through personal accounts from first responders, survivors, public officials, and everyday heroes who rose in the aftermath. The result promises to be more than a retelling of tragedy; it’s a tribute to the human spirit, the bravery of those who acted, and the resilience that followed.

SoldierStrong co-founder Dr. Chris Meek, who himself was present at Ground Zero on 9/11, first proposed the idea after witnessing how so many in our country were seeking meaning and healing in the years since. Gier, known for his thoughtful, emotionally resonant films, traveled across the U.S. to interview key figures like former U.S. Chief of Staff Andy Card, Port Authority Officer Will Jimeno, and former CIA Director Leon Panetta and to capture reenactments that bring these stories to life. This is a project we believe will resonate deeply with veterans, supporters, and all who believe in honoring sacrifice with purpose.



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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.

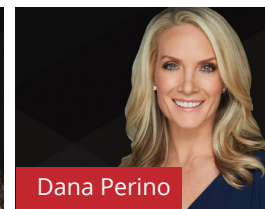
In 2020, Chris began hosting *Next Steps Forward with Dr. Chris Meek* via the VoiceAmerica Talk Radio Network, the industry's leading producer and online broadcaster of on-demand talk radio programming. *Next Steps Forward* hosts leaders from the worlds of business, sports, entertainment, medicine and 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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Join us every Tuesday at 1 PM ET
Learn More at NextStepsForward.com



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 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!](http://www.honor-respect.com)



SOLDIERSTRONG + HONOR★RESPECT

SOLDIERSTRONG IS PARTNERING WITH HONOR AND RESPECT TO BENEFIT VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH!

Purchase Honor and Respect's Military Shoe today using promo code **"SoldierStrong"** and \$10 of your purchase will go back to our mission!

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LIMITED EDITION

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



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

