



STANDING TALLER TOGETHER: AN UPDATE FROM SOLDIERSTRONG

STRONGTIMES

A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact.

VOLUME IX, NO. 1, 2026



A MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRIS MEEK

As we reflect on the end of 2025 and the start of 2026, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible community of partners, donors, and veterans who make Soldier-

Strong's mission possible. Thanks to your support, the past year was remarkable: from United Rentals / Turns For Troops, the Graham & Courtney Rahal Foundation, and Patriot Mobile's generous contributions to the outstanding leadership of Mark Gottwald and Shari Yates, our most recent Commitment to Service Award recipients, Americans across the country continue to elevate care for those who have served our nation.

Education remains a cornerstone of our work, and through SoldierScholar, we continue to support veterans

pursuing higher education. This quarter, we proudly highlighted recipients, each of whom is forging a path to make a lasting impact in their communities and beyond.

Every day, your support transforms lives. Together, we ensure that our nation's heroes continue to take their next steps forward: standing taller, walking farther, and moving forward with purpose through the donation of revolutionary medical technology.

God bless,

Dr. Chris Meek, Co-Founder and Chairman

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UNITED RENTALS DONATES \$225,834 TO SOLDIERSTRONG THROUGHOUT 2025

United Rentals Inc., the world's largest equipment rental company, donated \$225,834 to SoldierStrong through its ongoing partnership with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing throughout 2025. Since 2017, the company's Turns For Troops program has contributed over \$2.7 million to support injured veterans in their recovery and rehabilitation. This year marks the eighth consecutive year that United Rentals has donated \$50 for each lap driven by NTT IndyCar Series driver Graham Rahal in select races. 2025 also introduced Riding With Rahal, allowing fans to contribute \$50 or more to have their names featured on Rahal's No. 15 United Rentals racing car at the Indianapolis 500.



"United Rentals' incredible generosity and commitment to America's veterans is truly inspiring... Their support helps us provide life-changing technologies to our nation's injured veterans, empowering them to regain mobility, independence, and hope.

- Chris Meek, SoldierStrong Founder and Chairman

GRAHAM AND COURTNEY RAHAL FOUNDATION DONATES \$225,000 THROUGH VINO FOR VETS

The Graham & Courtney Rahal Foundation (GCRF) donated \$225,000 to SoldierStrong through its fourth-annual Vino For Vets powered by DropLight fundraiser last October. The weekend-long Napa Valley event, combining the Rahals' love of fine wine with their commitment to veterans, benefits SoldierStrong's mission of helping injured veterans take their next steps forward after service.

"The success of Vino For Vets is a testament to the generosity of our supporters and the power of coming together for a purpose... SoldierStrong's work rebuilding veterans' lives aligns perfectly with our mission.

- Graham Rahal

"We are incredibly grateful to Graham and Courtney Rahal, DropLight, and every supporter of Vino For Vets," said Dr. Chris Meek. "Their generosity helps us provide life-changing technology to America's veterans, empowering them to regain mobility, independence, and hope."



SOLDIERSTRONG HONORS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



SoldierStrong proudly announced its 2025 recipients of the Annual Commitment to Service Award, honoring both corporate and individual champions of the organization's mission.

The award recognizes companies and individuals who demonstrate exemplary leadership and provide critical support to SoldierStrong, helping elevate the standard of health care available to our nation's veterans. Through their efforts, recipients inspire others to take action in support of those who have served.

Patriot Mobile was named as the 2025 corporate honoree. Since its founding, Patriot Mobile has offered Americans reliable nationwide 4G and 5G coverage while consistently advocating for military, veterans, first responders, and their families. A portion of every dollar from the company's services supports organizations defending freedom, including SoldierStrong.

"At Patriot Mobile, we believe that business should be a force for good, and SoldierStrong is an example of how much good can be done when we unite purpose with passion," said Glenn Story, Patriot Mobile's Founder and CEO. The 2025 Individual Commitment to Service Award was presented to Mark Gottwald and Shari Yates for their exceptional dedication to SoldierStrong's mission. Both recipients have leveraged their



talents, resources, and personal commitment to advance the organization's goal of helping injured veterans regain mobility, independence, and hope.

"On behalf of the men and women we serve, our board, staff, and volunteers, we extend heartfelt gratitude to Mark Gottwald and Shari Yates," said Dr. Chris Meek. "Their selfless support and dedication inspire others to champion causes that benefit our nation's heroes."

Past recipients of SoldierStrong's Commitment to Service Award include WWE Inc., United Rentals Inc., S&P Global, Bobby Rahal Automotive Group, Flags of Valor, Martha MacCallum of FOX News, IndyCar driver Graham Rahal, former Congressman Jon Runyan, and Lieutenant General (Ret.) Patricia D. Horoho, the 43rd Surgeon General of the U.S. Army.

"We are so passionate about taking care of our military, veterans and first responders, we made it one of our main pillars of giving. I accept this award as a call to continue serving our heroes with the same dedication they've shown serving America."

Glenn Story, Patriot Mobile's Founder and CEO



SOLDIERSTRONG HONORS SOLDIERSCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



SoldierStrong is proud to announce the most recent recipients of our SoldierScholar program, our annual scholarship initiative supporting veterans pursuing higher education.

“At SoldierStrong, we believe in empowering veterans to reach their full potential both in service and beyond,” said Dr. Chris Meek. “Each scholarship represents not just an investment in education, but an investment in the future leaders, innovators, and public servants who will continue to make a difference in our communities and our country.”

Since 2012, SoldierStrong has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships. Scholarships are available to veterans attending Syracuse University, Georgetown University, and Old Dominion University.



SEAN KELLAS *Syracuse University, Master's in Public Administration*

Sean, a U.S. Army veteran and former all-source intelligence analyst, is pursuing his MPA at Syracuse University's Maxwell School. While studying, he works as a Facility Security Officer and serves on the board of Keeping Our Promise, a nonprofit supporting Afghan refugees. Sean hopes to pursue a career in state or local government to make a direct impact on his community.



KATHERINE HARNETT *Georgetown University, Master's in Foreign Service*

A former Field Artillery Captain in the U.S. Army, Katherine is now pursuing a Master's in Foreign Service with a concentration in Global Politics and Security. Her focus is on counter-narcotics, anti-money laundering policy, and financial systems that prevent transnational crime. Katherine aims to contribute to national security through research and evidence-based policy.



KATHLEEN HIGGINS *Old Dominion University, Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering*

Kathleen, a Navy veteran and first-generation college student, served as an aviation structural safety equipment mechanic on F-18 models. She returned to school after leaving the Navy in 2020 and graduated in Fall 2025 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, focusing on aerospace engineering.



SHELBY MURPHY *Old Dominion University, Electrical Engineering Technology*

Shelby, a Navy veteran and Fire Controlman Petty Officer, is a sophomore majoring in Electrical Engineering Technology with a minor in Cybersecurity. She plans to pursue an MBA and hopes to combine her military experience and education in a progressive civilian career in engineering and administration.



A PEEK INSIDE AN EVENING TO BENEFIT SOLDIERSTRONG HOSTED BY PATRIOT MOBILE

Patriot Mobile, valued supporters of our mission, hosted an evening to benefit SoldierStrong at the American Journey Experience at Mercury One Studios in Irving, Texas, raising awareness and funds to help military veterans take their next steps forward in life after service.

At the event, Patriot Mobile CEO Glenn Story and COO Jenny Story accepted SoldierStrong's 2025 Corporate Commitment to Service Award. We were honored to welcome Col. Allen West for the keynote speech and Sgt. Bryce Cherryholmes, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and SoldierStrong Ambassador, who demonstrated how he walks despite paralysis with the help of the SoldierSuit for more than 50 attendees.

We thank Patriot Mobile for setting a shining example and helping us elevate the standard of care and hope for our nation's heroes. With one of the highest veteran populations in the country, Texas is a key state for our mission, and we are proud to partner with Patriot Mobile to support veterans in the Lone Star State and beyond.



CHECK OUT SGT BRYCE CHERRYHOLMES' APPEARANCE ON THE COURAGE IN FAITH PODCAST

SoldierStrong Ambassador Sgt. Bryce Cherryholmes was honored to be featured on an episode of Patriot Mobile's podcast, Courage In Faith. In a powerful conversation with Patriot Mobile's Vice President of Strategic Partnerships, Danielle Buck, he shared his journey through multiple combat injuries, paralysis, and recovery. Through unwavering faith, the support of his family, and life-changing exoskeleton technology, Bryce learned to stand again and continues to serve others with purpose and strength.

Bryce's story is a testament to resilience, faith, and the power of empowering wounded veterans to reclaim their independence. Thank you, Patriot Mobile, for sharing such important and inspiring stories!



TUNE IN TO HEAR BRYCE'S INSPIRING STORY ON COURAGE IN FAITH!

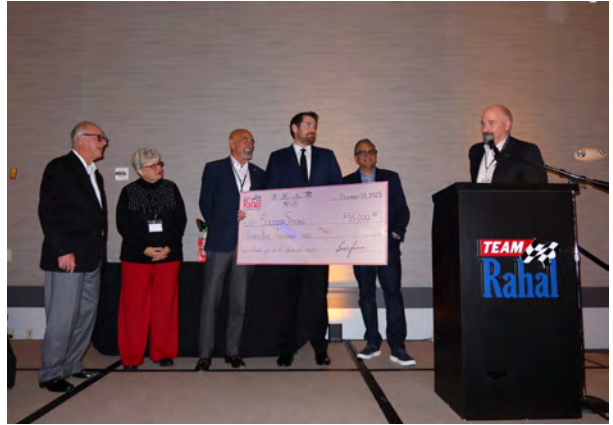


BOBBY RAHAL AUTOMOTIVE GROUP DONATES \$35,000 TO SOLDIERSTRONG

For the eighth consecutive year, the Bobby Rahal Automotive Group has donated \$35,000 to SoldierStrong, supporting our mission of providing revolutionary medical technology to Veterans Affairs facilities and helping military veterans take their next steps forward in life after service. With this year's contribution, the group has now donated over \$295,000 to SoldierStrong since starting the initiative.

Each November, in recognition of Veterans Day, the 10-dealership group across central and western Pennsylvania contributes a portion of revenue from every new and used vehicle sold at its central Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh region locations. "It brings us great pride to support our veterans each November," said Brian Buehler, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. "We are honored to support SoldierStrong and the revolutionary assistance they provide to our country's bravest."

Founded in 1989, Bobby Rahal Automotive Group represents Acura, BMW, Honda, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, and Toyota and has contributed over \$1 million to charitable initiatives while supporting more than 75 community events. Dr. Chris Meek praised the Rahal family's long-standing commitment: "The Bobby Rahal Automotive Group's continued dedication helps ensure injured veterans have access to advanced medical technologies that restore mobility, independence, and hope. Their partnership reflects genuine gratitude turned into action."



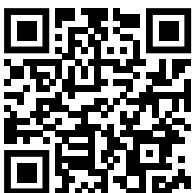
REFRESH YOUR SPRING WARDROBE WITH SOLDIERSTRONG APPAREL!

As the days grow longer and flowers begin to bloom, refresh your wardrobe with spring essentials from the SoldierStrong Apparel Store. Explore lightweight hoodies, T-shirts, hats, and accessories from brands like Nike and Vineyard Vines, perfect for the season.

Every purchase supports SoldierStrong's mission to help veterans take their next steps after service by providing life-changing technologies like wearable exoskeletons and virtual reality therapy for post-traumatic stress. Shop now and step into spring with purpose.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHOP



HONORING SERVICE, SUPPORTING VETERANS: MEMORIAL DAY BOUQUETS INITIATIVE

This Memorial Day, SoldierStrong is partnering with the Memorial Day Flowers Foundation to turn remembrance into action. Through the “Fundraising with Bouquets” campaign, a \$15 donation places a bouquet at Arlington National Cemetery, while \$5 supports SoldierStrong’s programs for veterans.

Since 2011, the foundation has invited volunteers to place flowers at gravesites, read each name, and reflect on the sacrifices of our nation’s service members.

At the same time, donations help SoldierStrong equip veterans with life-changing technology like robotic exoskeletons and virtual reality therapy for post-traumatic stress.

A simple gesture this Memorial Day can honor the fallen while helping veterans move forward.

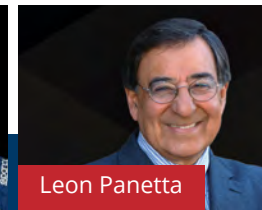
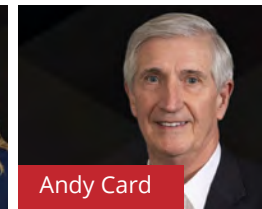
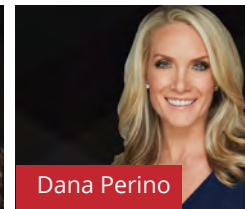


SCAN TO DONATE

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.



Join us every Tuesday at 1 PM ET
Learn More at NextStepsForward.com

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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**
 - 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

