



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER: A SUMMER OF GROWTH AND GRATITUDE



STRONGTIMES

A quarterly newsletter with life-changing impact.

VOLUME IX, NO. 2, 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- Pg. 2 Community Events Benefiting SoldierStrong
- Pg. 4 Revolutionary Technology Donations to Veterans
- Pg. 5 SoldierStrong in the Spotlight



A MESSAGE FROM DR. CHRIS MEEK

As we move through the summer of 2026, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible community of partners, donors, and veterans who make SoldierStrong's mission possible each and every day.

This quarter, we are proud to share stories of transformation, from the donation of our 32nd BraveMind virtual reality system to the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, bringing this life-changing technology to Illinois for the very first time, to the donation of REAL® Immersive Systems to the Palo Alto and Boston VA facilities, and an ExoSym® Orthosis to Marine Corps veteran Patrick Haber.

We are also grateful to Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Paul R. Lawrence for taking the time to learn about our work and sharing our mission with his network.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our partners and donors. Together, we ensure that our nation's heroes continue to stand taller, walk farther, and move forward with purpose.

God bless,

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 21 at Brickyard Crossing in Indianapolis ahead of the Indy 500. The event, sponsored by United Rentals, raised \$125,000 for SoldierStrong.

U.S. Army Veteran and SoldierStrong Ambassador Sgt. Dan Rose, the very first recipient of the SoldierSuit donated by SoldierStrong in 2013, demonstrated to over a hundred attendees how the technology enables him to walk despite paralysis, a living testament to the life-changing impact of SoldierStrong's partnerships with GCRF and United Rentals.



"We are deeply grateful to both the Graham & Courtney Rahal Foundation and United Rentals for their extraordinary partnership and commitment to our nation's veterans."

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

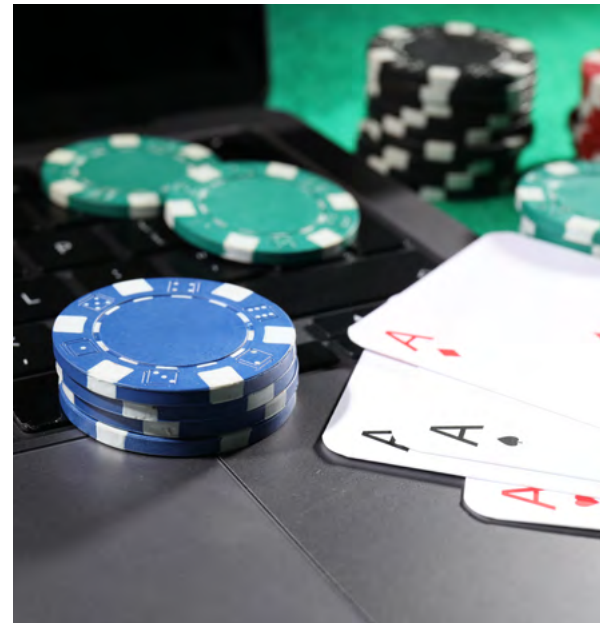


SOLDIERSTRONG'S 2ND ANNUAL POKER TOURNAMENT SHINES LIGHT ON VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH

On Wednesday, April 22, SoldierStrong board members Jeremy Wien and Zachary Sheinberg hosted the second annual No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Virtual Poker Tournament to Benefit SoldierStrong, bringing together valued supporters from across the country to raise funds for veteran mental health.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran and SoldierStrong Ambassador Chris Merkle served as the keynote speaker, sharing how BraveMind therapy helped eliminate his symptoms of post-traumatic stress (PTS), complete his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and now provide therapy to fellow veterans at a VA facility in Southern California. Dr. Albert "Skip" Rizzo, the developer of the BraveMind technology, also spoke to attendees about the profound impact of the therapy on veterans.

Thanks to the generosity of all who participated, SoldierStrong is proud to announce the donation of its 32nd BraveMind virtual reality system to the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in Chicago, IL, the first time BraveMind technology will be available to veterans in the state of Illinois.



SOLDIERSTRONG DONATES REAL® IMMERSIVE SYSTEMS TO PALO ALTO VA TO ADVANCE VETERAN REHABILITATION

SoldierStrong is proud to announce the donation of two REAL® Immersive Systems to the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System. The technology leverages virtual reality and full-body tracking sensors to deliver engaging, interactive therapeutics that help veterans build functional skills, improve mobility, and enhance overall wellness, supporting both physical and occupational therapy across a wide range of rehabilitation needs.

With full-body sensors, clinicians can track patient movement and progress in real time, allowing for personalized and adaptive therapy targeting upper and lower extremities, balance, coordination, cognition, and activities of daily living.



"SoldierStrong is committed to ensuring that our nation's veterans have access to the most advanced rehabilitation tools available. By bringing REAL® Immersive Systems to the Palo Alto VA, we are equipping clinicians with innovative technology that can motivate patients, accelerate recovery, and ultimately improve quality of life."

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

SOLDIERSTRONG DONATES REAL® IMMERSIVE SYSTEM TO VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM TO ADVANCE VETERAN WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

SoldierStrong is honored to announce the donation of a REAL® i-Series Immersive System to the VA Boston Healthcare System, which provides comprehensive care to more than 65,000 veterans across the greater Boston area and New England. The system delivers interactive VR experiences designed to promote relaxation, cognitive engagement, and stress management in a clinically guided setting, complementing existing care pathways with an additional tool for patient engagement and emotional well-being.

"VR experiences can complement existing clinical care, offering our veterans an additional resource for engagement and wellness support."

Matthew Edwards, Chief, VA Boston's Center for Development and Civic Engagement



SOLDIERSTRONG DONATES LIFE-CHANGING EXOSYM® DEVICE TO MARINE CORPS VETERAN AND FORMER POLICE OFFICER

Patrick Haber served his country as a U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant from 2015 to 2020. After his honorable discharge, he pursued his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer, until a catastrophic on-duty injury shattered his ankle and talus bone, ultimately ending his law enforcement career. Now 34 and living in Missouri with his wife and six-year-old son, Patrick has channeled his resilience into rebuilding his life.

SoldierStrong is proud to have donated an ExoSym® Orthosis to Patrick, a custom hybrid prosthetic-orthotic device using advanced carbon-fiber energy-storing technology, available exclusively through Hanger Clinic in Gig Harbor, Washington. The device offers new hope for restoring the mobility and independence Patrick once had.

"I have nothing but good things to say about my experience, and am truly grateful for SoldierStrong's generous donation of this device."

- Patrick Haber, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran



SOLDIERSTRONG DONATES 32ND BRAVEMIND VIRTUAL REALITY SYSTEM TO CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FEDERAL HEALTH CARE CENTER

SoldierStrong is proud to announce the donation of its 32nd BraveMind virtual reality system to the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Illinois, marking the first time this groundbreaking technology will be available to veterans in the state of Illinois.

BraveMind, developed by Dr. Albert "Skip" Rizzo and his team at the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies, uses virtual reality exposure therapy to help post-9/11 veterans confront and process trauma in a safe, controlled environment. The system creates immersive combat scenarios that therapists customize based on a veteran's specific traumatic experience, allowing patients to revisit difficult memories at a pace they can manage.

With the United States losing an average of 17 veterans a

day to suicide, expanding access to evidence-based mental health care has never been more urgent. This donation reflects SoldierStrong's ongoing commitment to ensuring that veterans in every corner of the country have access to the life-changing tools they deserve.



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PAUL R. LAWRENCE RECOGNIZES SOLDIERSTRONG'S MISSION

SoldierStrong is honored that Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Paul R. Lawrence graciously met with our co-founder and chairman Dr. Chris Meek to learn more about the organization's mission and the revolutionary medical technologies transforming healthcare for America's veterans. Their conversation centered on how cutting-edge tools like virtual reality are changing the landscape of veteran rehabilitation and mental health treatment.

We are incredibly grateful to Deputy Secretary Lawrence for taking the time to engage with our work and for generously sharing SoldierStrong's mission across his platforms. His recognition is a powerful reminder of the importance of bringing innovative solutions to the veterans who have sacrificed so much for our nation. We are proud to have his support in amplifying that message.



UNITED RENTALS' 2026 CRAWFISH BOIL RAISES MONEY FOR SOLDIERSTRONG'S MISSION

What an incredible night at United Rentals' 2026 Crawfish Boil in Beaumont, Texas! The beloved annual event brought together more than 6,000 customers and partners, serving up 15,000 pounds of crawfish alongside an unforgettable performance by the Eli Young Band.

SoldierStrong is grateful to United Rentals for their continued support and for shining a spotlight on our mission at such a memorable event. Evenings like this are a powerful reminder of what community and partnership can accomplish for those who have served our nation.

Thank you to everyone who showed up and gave back. We are proud to stand alongside United Rentals and look forward to everything we will accomplish together in the years ahead!



S&P GLOBAL HOSTS LUNCH AND LEARN FOR SOLDIERSCHOLAR RECIPIENTS

SoldierStrong is proud to highlight a special opportunity made possible through the generosity of one of our board members and valued partner S&P Global. In a testament to our commitment to supporting veterans beyond the scholarship itself, S&P Global hosted an exclusive virtual Lunch & Learn for recent SoldierScholar recipients, offering insight into career paths and opportunities at one of the world's leading financial institutions.

The session introduced participants to S&P Global's Valor Veterans Program, a dedicated initiative reflecting the company's commitment to supporting veterans in the workplace, and provided an informal setting for scholars to learn about career pathways and gain perspective from corporate leaders.

At SoldierStrong, we believe that our responsibility to America's veterans does not end with a scholarship. Opportunities like this Lunch & Learn reflect our ongoing commitment to empowering veteran scholars at every stage of their professional journey. We are deeply grateful to S&P Global for investing in the futures of these remarkable men and women.

The S&P Global logo is displayed in a large, bold, red font. Above the text is a thick black horizontal line. The background is white.

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 checkout, \$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)

The advertisement features a black background. At the top, the text "SOLDIERSTRONG + HONOR★RESPECT" is displayed in white, with a circular logo to the left. Below this, the text "SOLDIERSTRONG IS PARTNERING WITH HONOR AND RESPECT TO BENEFIT VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH!" is written in white. A pair of tan and grey athletic shoes with an American flag design on the side is shown. To the right of the shoes, the text "Purchase Honor and Respect's Military Shoe today using promo code 'SoldierStrong' and \$10 of your purchase will go back to our mission!" is written in white. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, with the text "Scan to visit site" below it. At the very bottom, the text "LIMITED EDITION" is written in white on a black background.

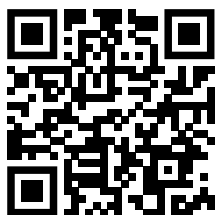
HONOR★RESPECT



GEAR UP FOR SUMMER WITH SOLDIERSTRONG APPAREL!

As the temperature rises and summer adventures await, update your wardrobe with warm-weather essentials from the SoldierStrong Apparel Store. Explore breathable T-shirts, hats, and accessories from brands like Nike and Vineyard Vines, perfect for everything the season has in store.

Every purchase supports SoldierStrong's mission to help veterans take their next steps after service by donating revolutionary medical technologies. Shop now and make your summer count!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHOP!



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.

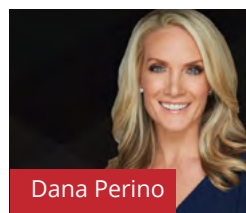
In 2020, Chris began hosting *Next Steps Forward with Dr. Chris Meek* via the VoiceAmerica Talk Radio Network, the industry's leading producer and online broadcaster of on-demand talk radio programming. *Next Steps Forward* hosts leaders from the worlds of business, sports, entertainment, medicine and politics to engage thought-provoking discussion to help us all take the next steps forward in our journey to better ourselves.



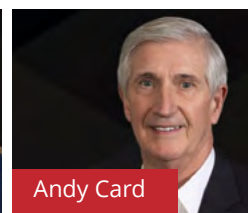
Col. Greg Gadson



Dr. Alveda King



Dana Perino



Andy Card



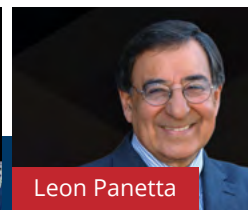
Charles Haley



Martha MacCallum



Graham Rahal



Leon Panetta

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

SCAN TO
VISIT SITE



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
- Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), a tax-smart way to give directly to SoldierStrong
- 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

