

13 th Annual

GEN. JAMES T. CONWAY GOLF OUTING



Sunday, August 27, 2017
The Country Club of St. Albans



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MISSOURI FRIENDS OF INJURED MARINES

13th Annual

GEN. JAMES T. CONWAY GOLF OUTING

THE FUND

On May 18, 2004, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund was established by a nurse who worked with injured Marines and sailors at the Camp Pendleton Hospital in California. The nurse's husband was deployed in Iraq at the time. She brought together a small group of concerned Marine Corps spouses to provide financial grants and needed equipment to injured Marines and other service members injured while assigned to Marine forces. Since its inception, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund has provided more than \$144 million dollars in assistance to over 18,000 service members. The Fund has been featured on 60 Minutes, CBS News, NBC Nightly News, CNN, The Chris Mathews Show, Fox News and National Public Radio. Additionally, numerous other journalists have conducted interviews of injured Marines and sailors, who expressed their gratitude for the support that they had received from the Fund.

THE NEED

Our Marines and sailors return home after being stabilized at military hospitals in Germany. Upon arrival, critical care is provided at the National Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Depending on the severity of the injuries, continued hospitalization occurs at other hospitals located throughout America. Hospital stays can extend for months and rehabilitative care for years.

When a Marine is injured, the entire family shares the burden of recovery. A young married Marine with a wife and two small children may at first require the support of his spouse. Eventually, the Marine's spouse must return home to care for the children and parents may step in to provide comfort to the injured Marine. As time passes, Mom and Dad may need to return to work and a sibling may arrive until a spouse can return again.

THE CRISIS

Loved ones travel great distances at a moment's notice to be at the bedside of their wounded family member. Family members take leave from their jobs, often without pay. They also incur additional expenses - lodging, travel, food - while trying to meet obligations at home. It can become difficult for families to make ends meet while helping their Marine recover. Few are prepared for the expense.

The Marine Corps goes above and beyond to support Marines and their families but there are limits to the amount of funding available to accommodate the families of injured Marines. The Marine Corps can only provide assistance to family members for a limited period of time. Defense Department funding is not available to extended family members or for the reimbursement of expenses for rental cars, long-term childcare, or lost income.

THEIR MISSION

The Semper Fi Fund provides immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to post-9/11 wounded, critically ill and injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families, ensuring that they have the resources they need during their recovery and transition back to their communities.



Corporal Kyle Moser, USMC (Ret.)

Cpl Moser was deployed to Afghanistan in August 2011. He was a rifleman and radio operator with the unit 2/4 from Camp Pendleton in California. On November 22, 2011, Kyle's squad was one of three squads taking part in a KLE, Key Leaders Engagement. As he was leading his team to provide security, Kyle swept for IEDs or Improvised Explosive Devices. While there are a few types of metal detectors used by the Marine Corps to search for the pressure triggered bombs underground, only one type of those detectors can pick up the signal of carbon fiber rods, which are now more commonly used to construct the traps. Unfortunately, Kyle was not able to use one of these sweepers. As he came upon some loose dirt, Kyle advised his team leader that they should turn around and take another route as loose dirt often signifies an IED was planted nearby. The very next step Kyle took to turn around flipped his life upside down.. literally. The next thing Kyle knew he heard the loudest boom he had ever heard in his life as he was blasted back through the air among thick black smoke and dust. Kyle felt no pain and was completely unaware that he landed on top of his team leader who was standing behind him before the explosion. All Kyle knew at this point was that his legs were gone and his vision was becoming blurry.



Kyle's brothers came to his side to try their best to save his life. Kyle felt a cutting pain of the tourniquets being applied to his arm and legs as he told his fellow Marines to pass on his last words of love and sorrow to his family and friends. As the corpsman cared for him and his brothers gave him encouragement that he would make it though, Kyle began to regain his vision and his hope that he could live through this. His body ravaged and barely hanging onto life, Kyle fell asleep knowing that he was now in safe hands out of reach of the Taliban.



Kyle's injuries included double above-knee amputations, a partial amputation of his ring finger, lacerations to his arms and face, severe soft tissue damage and skin loss to his legs and arms, loss of some wrist and hand bones, a fractured pelvis, moderate traumatic brain injury, as well as severe damage to both ear drums. Although the 19-year-old's body was severely injured, his determination and positive life attitude was not damaged. When Kyle was told about the other military members who donated their blood for his life, it grasped his heart. He knew he had to do everything he could to recover to try and show them his tremendous gratitude. Kyle fought through a weakening infection caused by bacteria and foreign bodies entering his bloodstream from the blast, and endured surgeries every other day, some lasting as long as 14 hours. Kyle worked his best to regain his health and strength, and by the end of December he was getting out of his hospital bed and into his wheelchair as much as possible. Soon he started physical therapy and occupational therapy as an inpatient, and by mid-January he was getting discharged from the hospital.

Kyle is currently studying for an Associates of Arts at the College of DuPage. He is also pursuing an acting career and has starred in the PBS Original Series, "Mercy Street". He is married to Alexandra and they live in Woodridge, IL.



EVENT SCHEDULE

Registration: 10:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 a.m.
Presentation &
Guest Speakers: 11:30 a.m.

Tournament Begins: NOON
Cocktails: 5:15 p.m.
Dinner: 6:15 p.m.

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