



**COMBAT  
SOLDIERS  
RECOVERY  
FUND**

# KEEPING *in* TOUCH

Spring 2015

[www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org](http://www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org)

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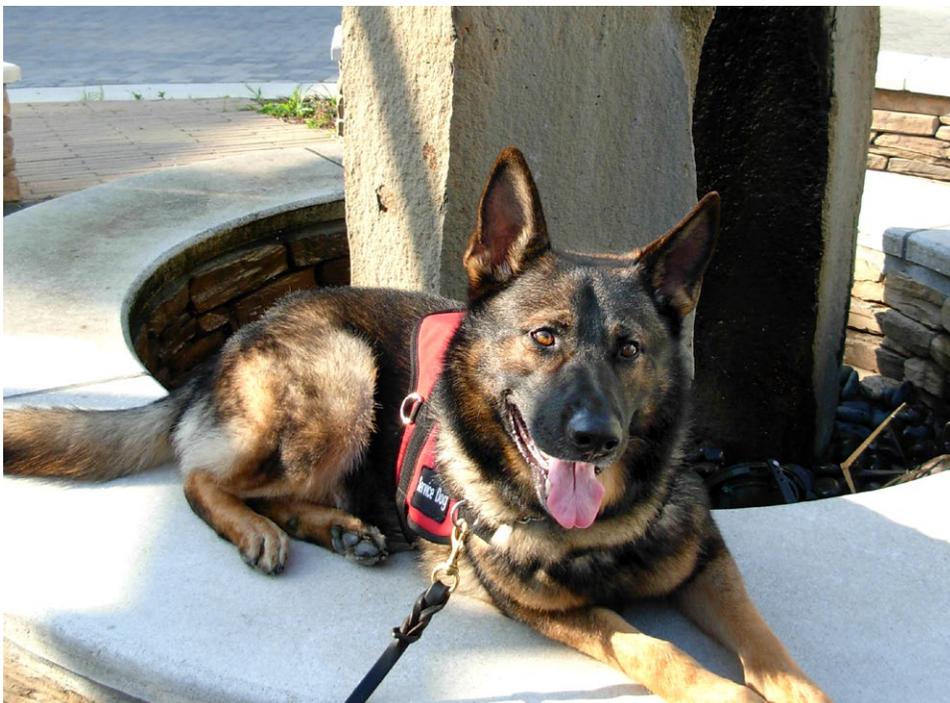
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*Volunteer*



Hi. My name is Max. I'm a German Shepherd, but since I grew up in Holland, I guess that you could call me a Dutch German Shepherd. But it doesn't really matter whether you call me Dutch or whether you call me German because two years ago I became an American. That was the luckiest day of my life because not only did I become an honorary citizen of the United States of America (USA! USA!), that was also the day that I met Eric.

Eric is my best friend and he takes really good care of me. We are always together, and that makes me very happy. Eric is a Marine — just like his father. The Marines are really brave men and women who have protected America for over 200 years. Because of people like Eric, America is a place where you can live in freedom and raise a family feeling safe and secure.

Just before I met Eric, he was severely wounded while serving America overseas. He lost his right leg and now his left leg is giving him real problems. This means that Eric must get around in a wheelchair, but don't think for a moment that that stops us from getting out and having good times together. We've been out in the woods together in western Pennsylvania — Eric in his very cool Action Track Chair which is like a mini-tank that can go anywhere. We've been to the archery competitions in Florida (did I mention that Eric shot just five points short of a world record and made the USA Archery Team? USA! USA!). We go for rides together in his big truck.

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**Please send donations to:**

Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund  
3804 Williams Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

[www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org](http://www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org)

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Somedays are tough though. I can tell when Eric's in pain. Sometimes it's physical. Sometimes it's anxiety. I remember once he was being interviewed about how he got his injury, and I could sense that he was getting upset as he explained the crash. I came up to him and rested my head on his lap. He looked down and smiled, and I got a really good head rub. We're a team. We take care of each other.

I keep an eye on Eric because he is so important to me. On our very first night together in the hotel, I trotted ahead of him down the hallway—checking around every corner, and then I ran into our room first just to check it out - the bathroom, between the beds, even the closets. I wanted to make sure that my friend was safe before he went to bed.

And not just Eric. I keep an eye out for Eric's whole family—his beautiful wife, Melissa and their three boys (Keenan, Mastin, Lochlen) and daughter (Josilyn). Once Eric and Melissa forgot to tell me that the kids had gone to their grandfather's house in Pennsylvania for an overnight. I kept checking their bedroom until Eric assured me that our family was safe and secure and that we could all now hit the sack.

Eric is an American hero. He's also my personal hero. And he's not the only hero out here at Walter Reed. There's a lot of young American men and women here recovering from serious injuries sustained in service to our country. Please join me in thanking them for their service and for their sacrifices because it is thanks to them that you and your family can sleep soundly tonight and wake up secure tomorrow morning.



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**THERE WERE 52,000 WOUNDED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. CSRF HAS GIVEN TO 2,250. CAN YOU HELP US GET TO 3,000 WOUNDED IN 2015?**

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*A Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund TV commercial is currently running across the market, thanks to our local sponsor, F.H. FURR (MD/Northern VA Plumber, Electrical and HVAC Contractor). Pictured left to right: Dee Roberge, Account Executive – Comcast Spotlight, Garland Miller, Founder and President of CSRF, Steven L. Cox, F.H. Furr, Marketing Director and Co-Founder/Creative Director – RetroLoco Creative*

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