



KEEPING in TOUCH

Spring 2018

www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org

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DESPITE STORM CLOUDS, A SILVER LINING

The annual fundraiser for Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund (CSRF) came during a week that the Washington, DC metro area was being pummeled by rain and winds. This year's event was held at the Columbia Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. Getting there was a challenge. The combination of rain, flash floods and rush hour turned the roads throughout the area into gridlock. Despite these obstacles, more than a hundred supporters showed up to honor the U.S. military personnel who have been wounded while serving their country.

CSRF stands apart from all of the charitable foundations established to provide support to wounded warriors and their families but it demonstrated commitment to give all money raised to the men and women of the United States military services wounded while doing their duty. Some might fault CSRF for only providing \$300 per person as a pittance, but two recipients of that sum, David Perez and Mrs. Jamie Gould, disabused any doubters with their personal story.

David Perez is a combat veteran who grew up in Baltimore and now lives in Frederick County, Maryland. He stood proudly before the supporters of CSRF and told about his 11 years with the U.S. Army (from 2003 thru 2014). Deployed to Iraq in 2005, Perez served as a convoy gunner on long-hauls. He experienced multiple ambushes and roadside explosions. Although not maimed physically, he left the combat theater with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and Traumatic Brain Injury. It is easy for someone missing limbs or an eye to engender sympathy. But those, like David, carry wounds just as severe without being immediately noticed.



Please send donations to:

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

www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org



David Perez was not looking for sympathy nor looking for a hand out. He showed up simply to say thanks. He was unflinching in telling those assembled about his battle with drugs and alcohol. He stood proud in discussing his commitment to use his life to serve Veterans as an outreach and resource specialist for the Building Veterans Program. And he thanked CSRF for the \$300 he received. It did not change his life nor eliminate the challenges he faces. But it did stand as a tangible reminder that others cared for him and cherished his service.

Jamie Gould is the kind of woman you hope your son would marry. Especially true if he decided to join the Army and suffered terrible wounds while doing his job. Her husband, Staff Sergeant Jared Gould was injured grievously in an accident and incapacitated. Some women faced with such a challenge could understandably decide to cut and run. But Mrs. Gould does not believe in surrender. She came to the CSRF fundraiser to say thanks. The \$300 contribution from CSRF helped Jamie provide for her three children—Jalisa (10), Jared Jr. (9) and Jason (4)—while also care for her husband in his longterm recovery. This blessed woman, despite facing challenges that might crush the souls of others, stood as a beacon of light and hope. She reminded all who had braved the elements to support the CSRF fundraiser that the small amount of money has a massive positive effect.

Among the key supporters attending the CSRF event was the crew from COMCAST—Erin Pinckney, David Michael, Mary Beth Albertini, Scott Albertini and Megan Anderson. COMCAST has been a gracious supporter in providing a public service ad highlighting the mission and work of CSRF.

Sadly, the United States remains engaged in combat operations in other countries. That means a continued flow of sons and daughters wounded in action who still need our support. The event last Wednesday raised \$10,000. Thank you for your generosity and please continue to remember that for only \$300 you can make a difference in the life of a soldier, a sailor, a marine, a pilot or spouse.



A big thank you to Lori Shore for all your help in making the fundraiser successful.