



COMBAT
SOLDIERS
RECOVERY
FUND

KEEPING in TOUCH

Holiday 2019

www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM COMBAT SOLDIERS

The wonderful winter 2019 Holiday Season has finally arrived – a time when we get back together with our family and friends to *catch up with* one another and also to *check up on* one another. For this newsletter I decided that for we should get back together and *catch up with* and *check up on* some of the members of our Combat Soldiers Family.

Back in 2014 you may recall that we met Cedric King who had been recovering at Walter Reed following the loss of his legs from a hidden bomb while serving in Afghanistan. We caught up with Cedric this holiday season in Atlanta where he lives with his wife Khidea and two daughters Amari (16) and Khanya (12). He had just returned from a speaking trip that included visits with the members of the Carolina Panthers football team, Yahoo Sports, and various veterans groups.

Cedric was definitely in the holiday spirit and continues to make great strides – both literally and figuratively! His new book was published earlier this year entitled “The Making Point: How to Succeed When You’re at Your Breaking Point” and the reviews are great. Check it out on Amazon.com because the motivational lessons in his book are not just for those recovering from physical injuries; it speaks of courage and perseverance and has some great lessons on how to move forward with your goals even when you are afraid.



Please send donations to:

Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund
3804 Williams Lane
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Up in western Pennsylvania we caught up with Eric Burkett who also lost his legs in combat. You will recall that we met him and wife Melissa and their four children Keenan (17), Josilyn (13), Mastin (11) and Lochlen (8) back in 2015. Well this year we meet twins Nolynn and Roawyn (3) as well!

Sadly, a couple years ago the family had to say good-bye to their wonderful service dog Max, but they are now enjoying the company of another German Shepherd named Jambo. Just picture a German Shepherd gently taking a ball from the hands of a three-year old or tugging slightly on her skirt so that she won't stop playing with him.

Eric is experiencing some extraordinary new technology in his continuing recovery. It's called osseointegration and Eric is the 25th patient to be receiving the treatment. Because it is still "experimental," Walter Reed is one of the very few places in the world that is working with this technology. I'll ask you to "Google" it for the details but the bottom line is an improvement in stability for the patient and a consequent improvement in life quality.

But Eric hadn't been waiting for this procedure to be active. He had still been out everywhere in his incredible Action Track Chair and he made it onto the US Archery Team! His goal is the Paralympic games in 2020 even as he recovers from his December Phase II of treatment. (I should also mention that Melissa has earned her MBA since we last saw her!)

The Kings and the Burketts are just two of the hundreds of military families whom we have had the honor of meeting in our work with the Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund over the years. The amount that we have helped each of these families with financially in their recovery is not nearly as important as the knowledge that we are continuously grateful for their courage and their sacrifice and their heroism in defending our families.

The road to recovery isn't short and there are still many families I would like to say "thank you" to with a special check. So as you gather with your family this holiday season in peace and safety, please remember the Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund at this blessed time of the year.



**...AND ALWAYS REMEMBER
OUR MOTTO: "WE GIVE 100%
BECAUSE THEY GAVE 100%."
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.**
