

March 2017 The First Newsletter!

Our Missions:

- **Advocacy**
- **Education and Training**
- **Literature**
- **Connections to Services**
- **Support Groups**
- **Service Animals**
- **Motivational Speaking**
- **Volunteering**
- **Scholarships/Education**
- **Our NEWSLETTER!**

March 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to our Mission!

Thank you all for signing up for our first newsletter. We have had a tremendous amount of support in just a few short weeks that we have launched our organization. We are very humbled and we thank you. It also sends a clear message that people do care about our organizations goals. There is a need in our great nation, and our mission is to answer that call. Veterans are in need of our help. Veteran's families are in need of our help. In any way we can we promise to make our very best efforts to assist and provide support to all those affected by post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. We understand the difficulties associated with both and understand the struggle to overcome and lead healthy, happy, and productive lives after service.. Our goal is to reach out and offer the support that often does not come after service and often does not come in time. We are very aware that

many do not make it out of this struggle and we have witnessed first hand the tremendous grief left behind. If we can help one person, one family, we can definitely say we have been a success. With your help, and especially your interest in our organization we believe we can help more than just one. Thank you for taking that first step with us in a journey that we hope will help many and change lives. We hope in our journey together we can bring awareness and make the necessary changes our country needs, the needs our veterans deserve. One person at a time, one goal at a time, we will accomplish our mission!

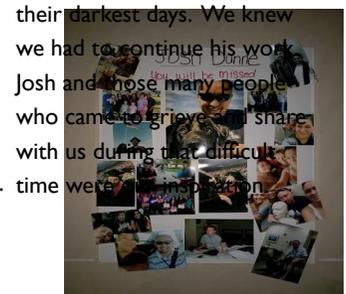
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The Inspiration for our Organization

When we lost our beloved Josh we were in engulfed in grief, and disbelief. During the immediate days after his passing we were met by many if not hundreds of people who Josh had touched in his life. People we had never met. They all had stories of his helping

hand, his caring way, and his remarkable ability to make others feel important. He had dreams to become a social worker, to help counsel veterans and others who suffered like him. Josh's goal was to give them hope and life. We realized that Josh had



It's Here! The Josh Dunne Memorial Scholarship

If you have been keeping up with our website then you know the Josh Dunne Memorial Endowed Scholarship has been approved by New Mexico State University. We are very excited about this and much work is being done to ensure that we can award

the endowed scholarship to our dependents with this unique scholarship starting Fall 2017! What is so special about this venture is this was the first plan we had in those initial days when Josh passed. It was first announced at the memorial held for Josh right on the New Mexico State University campus. With much help we kept our word and we are so excited that this has now taken off. We

are so grateful to Adrian Bautista at NMSU Foundations for creating this campaign; Lori Martinez at the counseling department for taking the initiative in starting this campaign, Hector Sanchez, Candace Gilbert, and Amber Gamiocchi at Military and Veteran's Programs; and Maria Gurrolla at the School of Social Work for meeting with us to develop this campaign.

Josh was known by so many people and his work and dedication to veterans did not go unnoticed therefore many people knew this just had to be done. The endowed scholarship means that every

year we will award at least two students with a scholarship at the beginning of each school year. We will honor our recipients with the Military and Veteran's Programs on campus. Our goal of raising \$25,000 is well underway and you can learn more at our website:

www.thejoshdunneorganization.org; we can accept checks made payable to: "NMSU Foundations" and memo: "The Josh Dunne Scholarship" or you can simply donate directly at makeastatement.nmsu.edu.

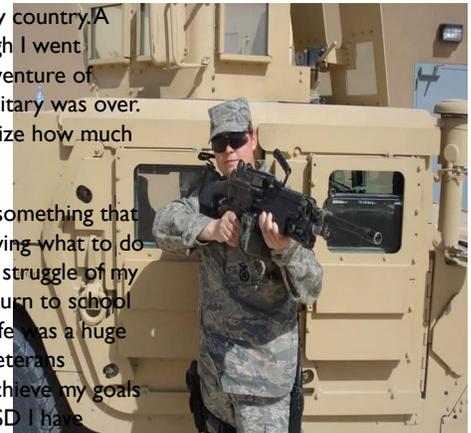
It is such an inspiring thing and knowing that his memory will live on. To learn how to apply for the scholarship keep up with the NMSU Military and Veterans Programs who will be providing more information on when and how to apply for this scholarship.



A Veteran's Story: Amberly Viner

My name is Amberly Viner. I am a USAF Security Forces Veteran who served almost 6 years. Here is a little bit about me and my story. I am originally from San Diego, CA and now reside in Las Cruces, NM. When I joined the Air Force in 2009 I was so excited to "live the dream" as well as ready to serve my country. A year after being active duty I was being sent off for deployment. Even though I made it through I went through so many things, personal and work related. I ended up getting injured started the adventure of medical evaluations and treatment. I was devastated when I found out that my time in the military was over. During this time I was also diagnosed with PTSD, Depression and Anxiety. It was hard to realize how much trauma effects your life in so many ways.

PTSD alone is something that will never go away and effects your life on a daily basis. This is something that I still struggle with today. I had to figure out my path in life all over again. Being lost, not knowing what to do from here since the career and life I loved was not an option anymore. After overcoming the struggle of my diagnosis with mental health and physical health I started to find my life back. I decided to return to school to obtain my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Transitioning from military life to civilian life was a huge transition, let alone being a student again. I worked my way through with the help of fellow veterans especially Josh Dunne. He was my cheer leader in everything I did and he motivated me to achieve my goals in life. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be where I am today. Even though I still struggle with PTSD I have obtained my degree and now have a career as an investigator.



Would you like to share a Veteran's Story?

It is important to us that we share the stories of our veterans. Their struggles, progress, success, and even their setbacks. This is invaluable information that not only offers encouragement and inspiration, but most importantly it can offer hope to so many that feel they are lost and alone. If you or someone you know would like to share your story please contact Marissa Miranda at marissam279@gmail.com. Thank you and keep the faith.

The fact is you just never know that it can happen to you until it happens to you. The countless hours of watching headline news on television. The conversations over what would you do in that situation, thinking and talking like you really have all the answers. Thinking in the back of your head or maybe even out loud, "thank God this can't happen to me". Then it happens and your world is forever crushed. You are suddenly thrown into the statistics of it all in disbelief. Slowly you realize that you are the story and then forgotten because another story came along. The devastation that you live with everyday is forgotten by the rest of society. There are many stories out there. Many different devastating stories of when it happened to others. You just hate that now you can relate. You can not stand that others complain about the simple things in life and forget about your story. You realize there is not enough talk. You realize forget about talk, there is simply not enough action. What really is being done to end this? To help the families recover. The unspoken words that linger around because in our minds we think they may not be appropriate. The fact is PTSD affects many people and when tragedy strikes you realize there was just not enough help or perhaps not the right type of help.



"...too many fear reaching out for help. And for those that do, the right type of help is still not there. And for those that are receiving help the right type of response is not there."

Reality is that too many fear reaching out for help. And for those that do, the right type of help is still not there. And for those that are receiving help the right type of response is not there. These are the true barriers that we must conquer. Through this devastating time in our lives we hope that through our grief we will not be afraid, we will find a way to break down those barriers, and we will save lives. After all our soldiers sacrificed theirs for us.

We owe it to them to let them know it is ok, and we are here with them every step of the way. We cannot let the statistics carry on day after day any longer. It happened to us and the numbers say it can happen to you.

Please join our efforts.

thejoshdunneorganization.org

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Words From Our President

We have begun an exciting adventure the last few months and I look forward to what the future of this organization has in store. I hope everyone has taken the time to experience our website and learn about The Josh Dunne Memorial Endowed Scholarship at New Mexico State University. The endowed scholarship means that every year we will award at least two students with a scholarship at the beginning of each school year. We will honor our recipients with the Military and Veteran's Programs on campus. Our goal of raising \$25,000 is well underway and you can learn more at our website:

www.thejoshdunneorganization.org; we can accept checks made payable to: "NMSU Foundations" and memo: "The Josh Dunne Memorial Endowed Scholarship". You can also donate directly online at the links in the website. Jonah, Johnathan, Sawyer and I are grateful for this campaign and again we are so grateful to Adrian Bautista at NMSU for his support of this campaign.



As we begin to take the metaphor of spring and look towards a new beginning. Our new beginning is this organization. We will soon be developing our program and creating a resource page for our community! As we research grants, write proposals, develop literature, we keep the needs of our community in mind. We are taking a close look at our community and seek to improve mental health services for our community. We are grateful for their family.

I thank my board members and would like to introduce them to you all. I have known each of you for some time, some my entire life. (I couldn't imagine doing this without my sister, Marissa) Thank you to my dear friends, Amberly, Kris, Bill, and Marissa you have made this experience so memorable thus far. All that has been given will NOT be forgotten! For all our hard work, I look forward to creating something amazing with you all. I truly believe that Josh chose each of you to carry these missions with me, thank you!

Thank you to everyone for supporting our adventure. I hope to see many of you participating in future events, if you have a talent you would like to volunteer, please contact us!

Sincerely,

Melanie Dunne, NMSU

President



Joshua C. Dunne

CPL USMC

September 15, 1980-December 2, 2016

