

July 2017 Second Quarter News!

Volume 1, Issue 2

Our Missions:

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

May 2017

Mission: NMSU-Josh Dunne Memorial Scholarship!

We reached our very first goal at 102% and growing! We are very excited that in partnership with New Mexico State University we were able to reach the goal of raising \$10,000 for the Josh Dunne Memorial Scholarship. This was our organization's first mission so exciting to see the fruition of it. Although Josh was initially a die-hard UNM Lobo fan, once he began attending NMSU he started to interact with other veterans and athletes and changed his color to Crimson. Rather quickly. He became a dedicated student working hard to help others, becoming a true and exemplary Aggie.

Josh worked diligently helping other student veterans as he understood their needs in all areas, especially financially. Though many veterans receive military assistance, Josh understood that other costs of attending school could be burdensome. Josh was always helping veterans adjust to the hustle and bustle of the many students, faculty, and staff mem-

bers walking through the campus of NMSU daily. Josh understood how difficult it could be in large social settings so he always made himself available to those struggling with this adjustment. He also helped them find affordable housing, employment, and other resources. The idea of a scholarship was the obvious way to continue his legacy at NMSU.

Fittingly we received the news that the Scholarship had reached its funding goals on Memorial Day. We continue to ask for continued donations as this will only add to the scholarship given to our veterans and/or their dependents. Continue to look for updates to his scholarship here:

<https://makeastatement.nmsu.edu/project/5971>

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Advocacy and Partnerships!

This second quarter has brought us together with different organizations that advocate for our veterans and provide networks of support, activities, and resources. It has been amazing to be able to meet with these groups in our combined efforts to broaden our outreach to veterans. It has been awesome learning about these organizations and discovering we have similar goals to helping veterans adjust back into our communities, their homes, their families, and helping

them establish meaningful connections with other veterans. Our next mission is to begin working with these organizations so we can start making an impact on the lives of our veterans.

Our first partnership is with Team RWB. (Red, White, and Blue), of the El Paso, Texas Chapter. They will be participating in the Old Glory Relay on October 12 and 13th, 2017.

Our organization will be sponsoring a break table for the team providing snacks, and water as they participate in the Old Glory Relay, a relay * "aimed at connecting veterans to their community, is carrying the American Flag across the country". For more information visit their website: teamrwb.org. If you want to participate please contact us!

*oldgloryrelay.org

Bataan Memorial Death March!

Well what can we say, we enjoy challenges. We have committed to participating the 2018 Bataan Memorial Death March which takes place at the beautiful White Sands Missile Range. Our organizations board members, family, and friends will be marching alongside many other veterans, family members, and organizations. * "The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging march through the high desert terrain of the White Sands Missile Range." ** "After the April 9, 1942, U.S. surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on the main Philippine island of Luzon to the Japanese during World War II (1939-45), the approximately 75,000 Filipino and American troops on Bataan were

forced to make an arduous 65-mile march to prison camps. The marchers made the trek in intense heat and were subjected to harsh treatment by Japanese guards. Thousands perished in what became known as the Bataan Death March."

Once again this mission goes back to our beloved Josh who's life goal was to participate in the March. Josh's family had set a goal to do the march 2018. It is now the organizations mission to complete the march in honor of those soldiers and in honor of all soldiers present and past suffering from PTSD. People from all over the world travel to complete this trek over the desert of New

Mexico and we are excited, and very nervous to be a part of this journey.

We have begun to prepare our minds and bodies for this challenge and it will not be easy!!! We will be participating in the 14.2 mile honorary march. The march takes place on March 25, 2018. If you would like to join us please contact at: tejoshdunneorganization@gmail.com

* bataanmarch.com

** <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bataan-death-march>

A Veteran's Story: David Myers, US Air Force



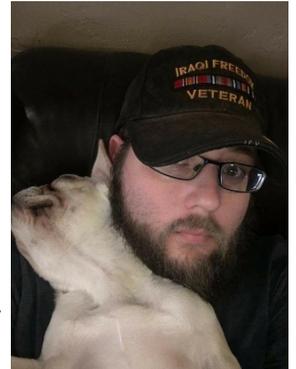
My name is David Myers, I did 15.7 years in the United States Air Force. In 2014, President Obama did a force reduction that included a fifteen year retirement, which I took. I was a Technical Sergeant for Security Forces, which is Law Enforcement and Security. During my fifteen years, I was stationed in Alaska, Iceland, Guam, Italy, and ended in New Mexico. During my travels, I have been to Thailand, Japan, England, Ireland, Slovakia, and Germany. I was deployed to Saudi Arabia twice before Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. I have been deployed to Iraq three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since

my first deployment to Iraq, my wife noticed a change in my mental status. I wake her up at night by hitting her or talking to her while I'm asleep. She tells me the next morning and I have no clue that it happened. Sometimes I wake myself up as I hear familiar sounds that one hears in Iraq as incoming



alarm, RAM shooting off to destroy incoming mortars, and even beeping of dead batteries on a motorola handheld radio. When I got out of the military I was at the mercy of the VA when I filed compensation. Luckily, I got 60%. The after effects that I received from the military is constant pain in my neck, lower back, right hip, right knee, left ankle, mental issues, and trouble falling asleep. My transition into civilian life was pretty easy. I was offered a job before I was retired, contracting with Las Cruces Adult Probation and Parole (APPO). The company that hired me is a Veteran friendly employment and works with your disabilities. APPO is not a bad place, but it is hard to express frustrations as it is just a contract. When dealing with civilians in general, I get frustrated and cranky. I don't know why I do, it just happens, and I feel the best way to deal with it is to not talk and suppress the urge to blow

up in rage. I have my good days and bad days, which is a lot. It is hard trying to find a new job with my disabilities, I can never be a Law Enforcement Officer, which is what I was trained to do. The only thing I can offer as in advice is to figure out what you want to do with your life, ignore civilians to the best of your ability, and enjoy the little life you have left.



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 in their struggles. It's also important for us to hear their achievements and their own unique approach that helped them succeed.

This quarter's story is brutally honest in describing the social struggles our veterans face everyday. Mr. Myers shares advice that we all can utilize when we are struggling in our efforts to help support and guide our veterans. Sometimes it does take respecting someone's need to be alone or respecting that no words are needed. To help them cope by allowing them to have their space. If you think about it it is a very normal request. We all experience stress and excessive noise from our jobs and families. What do we want to help alleviate a potential blow out? Sometimes it's just to be left alone for a certain period of time. To have some peace and quiet. To have people around respect "now is not a good time". To respect that sometimes no words of encouragement will help and really they are not needed, we just need space.

I hope we can all learn to do better and provide support for all affected. **If you or someone you know would like to share your story please contact Marissa Miranda at marissam279@gmail.com.**

Whether you are a veteran or a loved one we would love to hear from you!



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

COMING SOON!!!!

We have many projects lined up that will get under way during next quarter! In this newsletter we informed you of our partnership with Team RWB and our work making connections with more groups and organizations. Like any other organization we will need to begin raising funds to achieve our financial goals. We are very excited to announce that we will be selling t-shirts and have already created some designs that we know everyone will love. As they are aimed at showing our support and love for veterans. Whether you are a veteran or a loved one the shirts will be awesome and you will want one of your own. Be on the lookout as the t-shirts will be available for purchase on our webpage. If you have any questions or want any further information on the sales please feel free to contact us.

Phone: 575-619-0262

Words From Our President

This June was PTSD awareness month and I hope that many got to see some of the amazing organizations that are working on raising awareness in hopes of eliminating the stigma of PTSD and assisting with finding and researching the best treatment options. I know that in the future of our organization we will be doing some great and exciting things during this time of year.

I want to thank each of our scholarship donors – you should have received – or should soon be receiving a thank you card from our organization for your efforts in sharing our message and your generous donation. I want to take some time to explain what an endowed scholarship is (you can learn more at our website: www.thejoshdunneorganization.org). Our crowdfunding goal of \$10,000 was met! I am overwhelmed with gratitude; this is the first step in endowing a scholarship. We need to make an overall deposit of \$25,000 to ensure that The Josh Dunne Memorial Scholarship remains at NMSU for many years to come! The interest earned off this account is what will be awarded in a scholarship (endowed). Now that we have met our big hurdle, we will be reaching out to each of our donors to personally partner with NMSU and ensure that this scholarship is endowed. 100% of the donations are going towards this scholarship. I will keep everyone updated as we continue working toward endowing this scholarship; thank you all so much and you can continue to donate to the scholarship at makeastatement.nmsu.edu/josh

I would like to extend a welcome to our family and friends to participate in the 2018 Bataan Death March, we will be registering a team for the honorary march of 14.1 miles. Early registration begins in October; if you are interested please contact us and let us know!

Sincerely,

Melanie M. Dunne



