



WE AIM FOR VICTORY, ONE SENTINEL AT A TIME.

Your support makes all the difference in their transition from military to civilian life, and insuring our nation keeps the promise we have made to our wounded & injured veterans, to assist them in maximizing their potential.

THEY ARE WORTH THE INVESTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019
SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

OUR CORE VALUES &
MISSION

Sentinels of Freedom is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization that helps severely wounded post-9/11 Veterans with comprehensive personal support and financial assistance as they complete their higher education and achieve success in their post-military careers.

Federal Tax ID: 20-8139201

PAGES

03	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
04	2019 FINANCIALS
06	PROGRAM STATS
07	NATIONWIDE IMPACT
09	SENTINEL STORY
11	ANNUAL SENTINELS GALA
13	MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
14	CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



2019
AT A GLANCE

250 Veterans Served In 2019
583 Since Inception In 2007

Served Veterans Across
44 States

Accepted 106 Sentinels Into
Program In 2019

94 Accepted In Our Bridge
for Education Program

12 Awarded
Merit Based Grants

57 Graduates In 2019

6 Active Student Veteran
Resource Centers on
College Campus Serving
2,000 Veterans Per Year

\$2,673,848 Million Raised
in 2019

\$53,163 Current Average Cost
of Support Over a 4-Year Period

Program Expense Ratio
73% to Veteran Support
17% to Fundraising
10% to Administrative

Pictured Right: The Conklin Family
Mike Conklin, Kris Conklin, Casey Conklin,
Curt Conklin, and Peggy Conklin

DEAR SENTINELS OF FREEDOM SUPPORTERS AND THE VETERANS WE SERVE,

In today's unique national situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, Presidential election, social unrest, economic downturn, and after 19 years at war it is sometimes hard for us all to remain positive. These circumstances affect all our lives and those we love.

However, our nation has been through tough times in our history and has come through those very rough times even stronger. We are a resilient nation made up of strong and honorable people. Let us all take a moment each day to count our blessings and remember who fought and sacrificed for our freedoms and the quality of life that we enjoy today, our veterans.

Sentinels of Freedom continues to fight hard “on to the objective” of supporting our nation's wounded and injured post-9/11 veterans whom we call “Sentinels of our Freedom”.

As over 200,000 military members will retire or end their enlistments in 2020, 16,000 of these new veterans will be coming home to communities across the nation, medically retired due to injuries making them unable to continue their military service. Of this group, 6,000 will be rated at above 50% or higher permanently disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This happens every year and is as predictable as the sun rising.

We at Sentinels of Freedom have proven with our veteran support program how we can help many more of these veterans who are motivated to complete their higher education towards reaching their career goals and self-sufficiency.

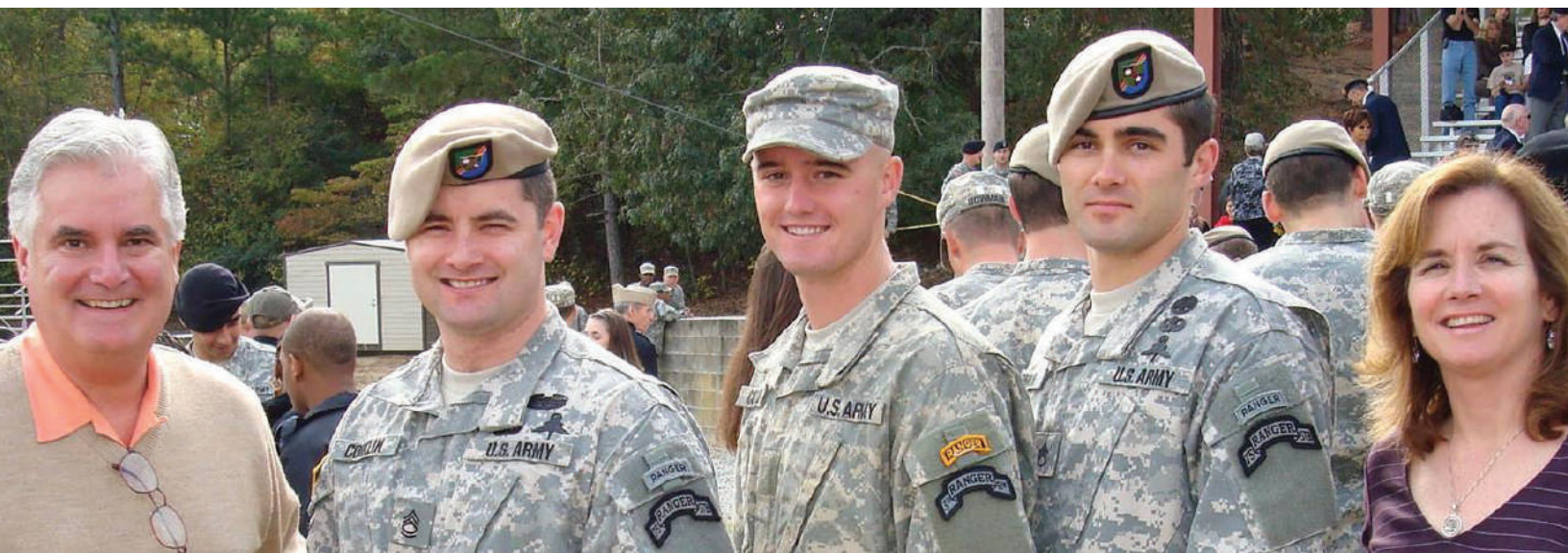
The individual stories of the Sentinels we have served are in a word, incredible. You can read some of their stories on our website at WWW.SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG.

Our mission at Sentinels of Freedom continues to remain relevant through your assistance of the veterans we serve. Thank you again for your support.

May God bless America and keep all of you and your families safe and well.

Very Respectfully,

MIKE CONKLIN
Chairman & CEO



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our board members consist of individuals with diverse backgrounds in business who are committed to advancing our mission and supporting the success of each Sentinel within the program. The board includes a mix of long-term members and two graduated Sentinels with the first-hand experience of the program. Together, they provide their time, talent, and leadership to ensure our passion for helping disabled veterans to complete their education and transition into successful post-military careers can continue long into the future.



MIKE CONKLIN
Chairman
CEO
Sentinels of Freedom



MIKE SANDY
Board Secretary
CFO
Sentinels of Freedom



KENT STRAZZA
Board Treasurer
Managing Director,
Alternatives Group
Franklin Templeton
Investments (Retired)



MARY KING
Vice President,
Human Resources and
Chief Diversity Officer
Pacific Gas & Electric
(PG&E)



PETE WALSH
Founder, President
and CEO Owards LLC



CHRIS MARZILLI
Executive Vice President
Information Technology
and Mission Systems
General Dynamics



STACY HADEKA
Senior Associate in
Government Contracts
Hogan Lovells US LLP



**MAJOR GENERAL
RON LOWE,**
US ARMY, RETIRED
Executive Director of
General Contracting
AT&T (Retired)



DAN COLEMAN
Director of Design,
Planning Engineering and
Construction River Islands
Development



JASON CHURCH
Graduated Sentinel
State Counsel and Northwest
Regional Director for U.S.
Senator Ron Johnson



HT TRAN
Graduated Sentinel
Founder, CEO, and
President
DNW Ventures, INC



MARTY KAPLAN
1937 - 2019
Board of Directors Emeritus

2019

FISCAL YEAR

Fiduciary responsibility supports our mission with respect to our donors, partners, and Sentinels.

\$2,673,848 MILLION RAISED

73% of every dollar raised was applied directly to our Sentinels



Pictured Left to Right:
Board Member Stacy Hedeka, Sentinel
Venol Raymond, Mentor Bob Cursio,
and CEO Mike Conklin

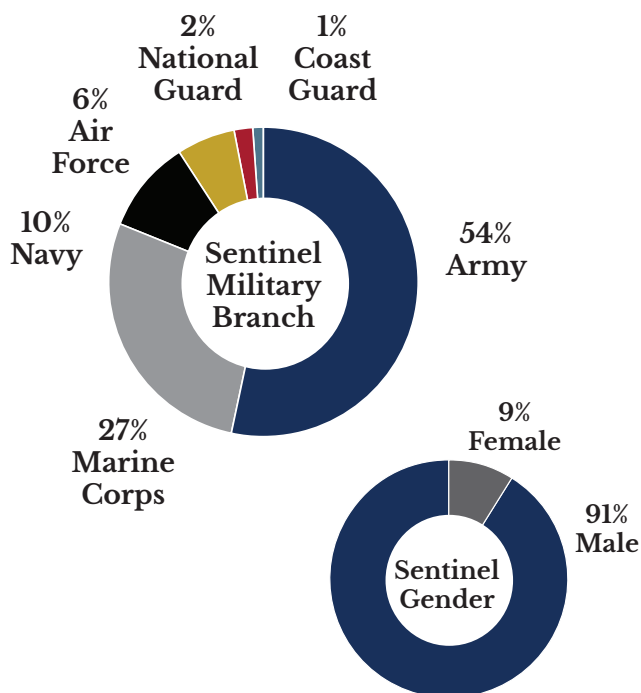


73% To Veteran Support
17% To Fundraising
10% To Administrative

ONCE A SENTINEL

ALWAYS A SENTINEL

Many veterans may experience difficulties when transitioning back into civilian life. Our Sentinels have the additional burden of being severely wounded or injured, which often prevents them from doing what they previously did in the military or other physically demanding jobs. As they struggle to overcome their injuries many may find it can be difficult to envision a rich fulfilling life, but with Sentinels of Freedom, they are welcomed into a family that only wishes to see them succeed. Sentinels are encouraged to reach out long after their official graduation from school to provide updates or seek future support or guidance as needed.



\$2,673,848

DOLLARS RAISED IN 2019

\$53,163

Current Average Cost of Support Over a Sentinels 4-Year Period

583

Veterans Directly Assisted Since Inception as of 12/31/2019

33

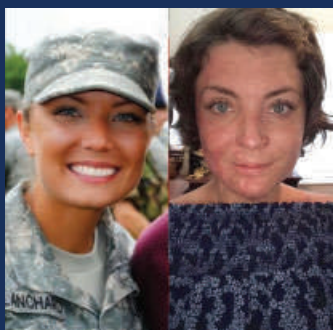
Median Age of Sentinels Accepted in 2019

90%

The Average Disability Rating That Our Sentinels Receive From Veteran Affairs

People with disabilities represent the single largest and most diverse minority in the country. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 80% of persons with a disability are unemployed.* Some key statistics from adata.org are 57% feared they would be discriminated against in hiring because of their disabilities, while only 36% intended to disclose their disabilities to an employer.**

Each Sentinel must have a VA disability rating of 50% or higher and have been wounded or injured in a combat or training related event post-9/11 and be committed to pursuing their higher education.

*www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.nr0.htm** https://adata.org/factsheet/employment-data-veterans-disabilities#_edn9

Sentinel Katie Blanchard
Ph.D. in Nursing



Sentinel HT Tran
San Jose State University



Sentinel Christopher Lamy
Juris Doctorate



Sentinel Cardia Summers
Columbia University

SENTINEL'S

BRIDGE FOR EDUCATION

Our program assists wounded or injured veterans in finding their unique paths to a fulfilling post-military life. Sentinel's Bridge for Education helps fill the gaps GI Bill payments do not cover. This allows Sentinels to focus their attention on their studies, career, and family.

The Sentinel's Bridge for Education program is comprehensive, high touch, multifaceted, and based upon each individual veteran's needs. As our veterans move through school, ongoing assistance is provided in the form of mentoring, life skills coaching, career development, networking, budgeting, financial planning, and more.

229 Number of Sentinels Served at the End of 2018

250 Number of Sentinels Served at the End of 2019

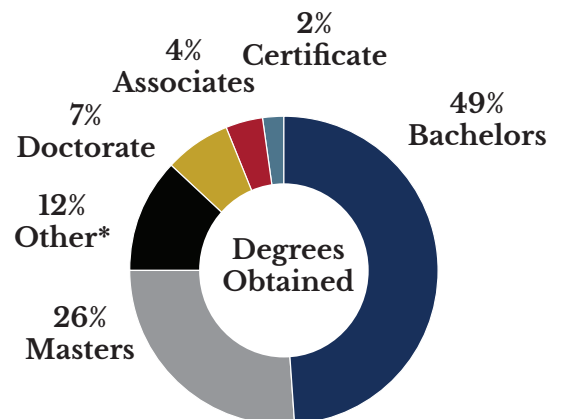
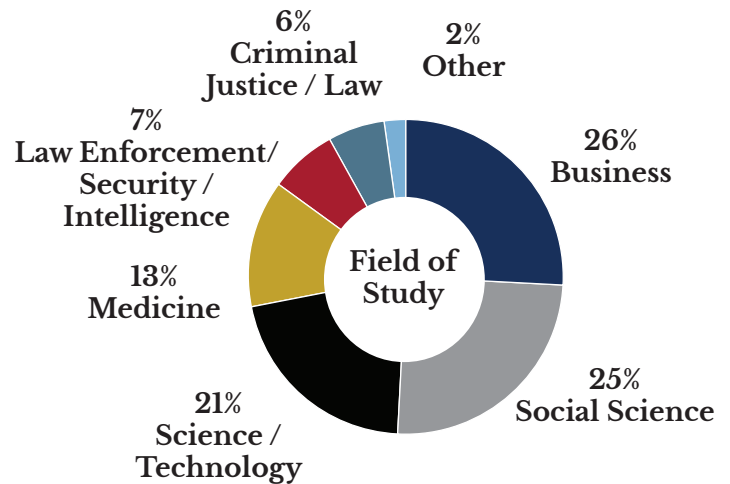
83 Number of Sentinels Accepted in 2018

106 Number of Sentinels Accepted in 2019

Resulting in Increased Number of Sentinels by **28%**

57 Graduated Sentinels in 2019

6 Student Veterans Resource Centers Serving 2,000 Veterans Per Year on College Campuses



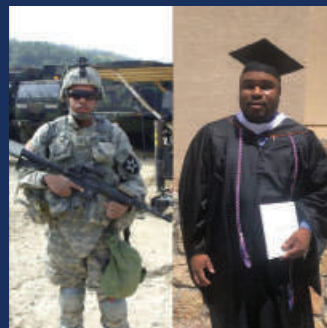
*H.E.R.O. Program Graduates



Sentinel John W. Walding
Business Owner



Sentinel Lina Efremenkova
Louisiana State University



Sentinel Durrell Green
Masters in Science

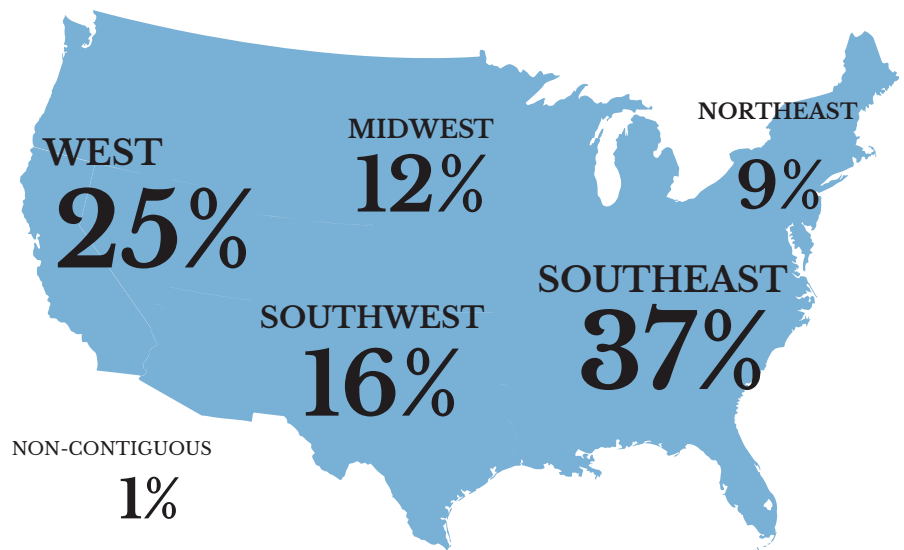


Sentinel Laniece Bell
Holy Names University

OUR SENTINELS

LIVE ALL ACROSS THE US

Sentinels of Freedom
currently has
SENTINELS IN 44 STATES
throughout the US



UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND TRADE SCHOOLS ATTENDED IN 2019 BY OUR SENTINELS

AIMS Community College
Alabama Aviation College
Alliant International University
American Military University
American River College
Arizona Mesa College
Arizona State University
ATP Flight School
Barry University
Baylor College of Medicine
Bellevue University
Bethel Seminary San Diego
Boise State University
California Institute of Integral Studies
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
Campbell University - Ft. Bragg Campus
Campbellsville University
Central Piedmont Community College
Chapman University
Charleston School of Law
Citadel Military College
College of Central Florida
Colorado Christian University
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado State University Ft. Collins
Columbia College
Columbia University
Columbus State Community College
DeVry University
Diablo Valley Community College
Duke University
Eastern Kentucky University
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Enterprise State Community College
Farmingdale State University
Fayetteville State University
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Fielding Graduate University
Flathead Valley Community College
Florida International University
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Fordham University
Frostburg State University
Gateway Community College
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Southern University
Gonzaga University School of Law
Grand Canyon University
H.E.R.O. Child Rescue Corps Program
Hallmark University
Harvard Kennedy School of Government
Hawaii Pacific University, Oahu
Holy Names University
John F. Kennedy University
John Jay College City University, New York
Keiser University
Liberty University
Lipscomb University
Lone Star College
Los Angeles Film School
Louisiana State University
Marquette University
Mauna Loa Helicopters
Methodist University
Middle Tennessee State University
Mississippi College
Missouri Baptist University
Montana State University
Montgomery Community College
Murray State University
National University
New York Institute of Technology
North Central State College
Northeast Community College
Northern New Mexico College
Northern Virginia Community College
Northwest Florida State College
Northwest Vista College

Northwestern University Pritzker
School of Law
Norwich University
Oklahoma University
Olympic College
Orange Coast College
Orange County Community College
Pierce Community College
Point Loma Nazarene University
Polk State College
Queens University of Charlotte
Regent University
Royal Military College of Canada
Rutgers University
Saint Charles Community College
Saint Leo University
San Diego City College
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Santa Rosa Junior College
Savannah Technical College
School of Visual Arts New York City
South College
South Puget Sound Community College
Southern Methodist University
Southern University Law Center
St. Mary's College
State College of Florida
Stetson University College of Law
Sullivan University
School Of Urban Missions
SUNY Cobleskill
SUNY Empire State College
Tacoma Community College
Tennessee Tech University
Texas A&M University San Antonio
Texas Southern University
Texas State University
The Catholic University of America
The Chicago School of Professional
Psychology
The Ohio State

The University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas at San Antonio
The University of Tulsa
The University of Utah
The University of Vermont
Troy University
University of Arizona
University of Central Missouri
University of Charleston
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Colorado School of Medicine
University of Denver
University of Georgia
University of Miami
University of Michigan School of Law
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri, St. Louis
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of North Carolina
University of North Florida
University of Notre Dame
University of Phoenix
University of San Diego
University of Santa Clara
University of Southern California
University of the Cumberlands
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Virginia School of Law
University of Washington
University of Washington Tacoma
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
Urbana University
USC Marshall School of Business
Vassar College
Vermont Law School
Wayland Baptist University
Wayne State University
Wesleyan University
West Coast University
Western Governors University
Withlacoochee Technical College

A SENTINELS JOURNEY

Military Service > Transition Home > Education > Career

YOUR INVESTMENT
TRANSFORMS LIVES



JOHN JAE TERRY / US NAVY

Completed multiple combat deployments as a Navy SEAL including 3 to Afghanistan, 1 to Iraq, and 1 to Africa. Sustained a right leg Amputation, Burns, PTSD, and TBI when his group was hit by an IED blast and rocket propelled grenades.

Graduated from Catholic University of America with a Juris Doctorate in Criminal Justice Law. Currently employed at Cyber Command while studying for the Bar exam.

YOUR INVESTMENT PROVIDES MORE THAN A BRIDGE TO EDUCATION IT'S A BRIDGE FROM THE LIFE OF SERVICE TO A LIFE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE CIVILIAN WORLD.



CODY DANIEL / US NAVY

Served as an EOD Technician with the Navy supporting the 75th Ranger Regiment and Navy SEAL Team 8. Completed a partial deployment to Somalia in East Africa and 3 deployments to Afghanistan before sustaining a traumatic brain injury and PTSD when his vehicle was struck by an IED.

Currently attending Eastern Virginia Medical School for a Doctorate of Medicine. As a physician he hopes to continue to help others daily while being able to utilize his leadership skills to guide a healthcare team.

ALTHOUGH THE DETAILS OF EVERY SENTINEL'S JOURNEY ARE DIFFERENT, THE CHORDS RUNNING THROUGH THEM ARE THE SAME.



LINA EFREMENKOVA / US MARINES

Deployed twice to Afghanistan during her time in the Marines. During the second deployment with the Female Engagement Team she experienced small arms fire and mortar attacks resulting in PTSD from witnessing fellow Marines and Afghans lose their lives.

Currently attending Louisiana State University and working towards a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. Lina looks forward to working with others to make their interactions with systems and processes easy, safe and as efficient as possible.

THESE ARE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN GRAVELY AND PERMANENTLY INJURED, YET THEY ARE DISTINGUISHED BY THEIR UNIQUE DRIVE, DETERMINATION, AND PATRIOTISM.

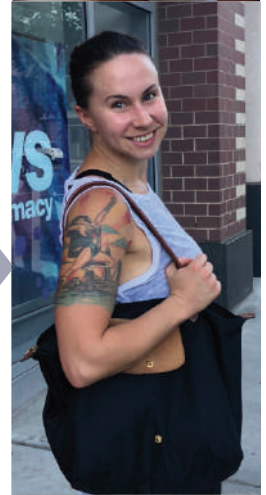
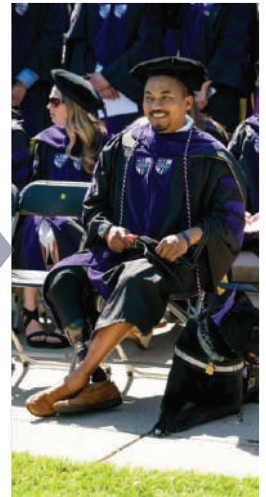


GARRETT JONES / US MARINES

Completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Severely injured by an IED resulting in a left leg amputation. After intensive rehabilitation, he returned to combat in under a year from the time of amputation.

Completed a master's degree in strategic intelligence at the National Intelligence University and now runs a team of intelligence professionals at MCIA's Enterprise Operations Center.

WE HAVE OVER 583 MORE SENTINEL STORIES LIKE THESE TO SHARE.



SENTINEL

DEREK ABBEY/


Major, US Marine Corps- 1st Marine Raider Battalion
 University of San Diego
 Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D., Leadership Studies

Raised by a single mother who had passed away when he was 13 years old, Derek Abbey was a rambunctious youth in need of a purpose. **When he joined the Marine Corps at 17, it was a decision he claims, “saved his life.”** After enlisting, Derek served with flight operations during Operation Southern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom completing deployments to Iraq and East Asia. After becoming the Air Officer for the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, he also deployed to Afghanistan. Most of Derek’s injuries developed over the course of his multiple deployments and 23 years of service which included serving in the 1st Raider Battalion Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

Never one to rest on his past achievements, Derek purposefully kept learning and sought out opportunities to further develop his skills. **While still on active duty, he earned a slot in the Marine Corps Advanced Degree Program and later became the director of the Train the Trainer School, where he trained staff, instructors, and leaders from 93 training units throughout the Marine Corps.** Once discharged, Derek attended the University of San Diego for his master’s in higher education leadership while working with the school and other universities to provide better education guidance for military members. He was subsequently recognized by the Military Order of the World Wars as the 2016 Veteran of the Year and finalist for the 2016 and 2017 San Diego Veteran of the Year, because of efforts in working with military in higher education.



Derek soon realized that in order to be able to truly effect change at the policy level, he would need a doctorate degree. **With assistance from Sentinels of Freedom, and his wife Michelle’s encouragement, he pursued a PhD from the University of San Diego while also serving as a senior director for the Travis Manion Foundation.** Building upon this experience, he then secured the position of Director at San Diego State University Joan and Art Barron Veteran Center. In 2019, after completing his doctorate degree, he became the president and CEO of Project Recover, where he now directs efforts to identify and repatriate the remains of American soldiers killed in action during World War II. Derek and Michelle, a registered dietician whose unwavering strength and support he credits as a large part of his success, now live in Oregon and spend as much time as possible together enjoying the outdoors.



“ Since I had utilized my G.I. Bill attaining my undergraduate and master’s degree, **SOF financial support addressed the gap that would usually be covered by military benefits.** The intangible support provided by SOF was just as significant as the financial support. Unlike military benefits, I felt like SOF actually cared for me personally and I had additional people on my team encouraging me to be as successful as possible. ”

- Sentinel Derek Abbey



“As a case manager at SOF, I have the privilege of being a part of a very transformative period in our Sentinels’ lives as they go to school and find their new purpose. **Derek has the rare ability to not only work towards his own success but to also intrinsically guide and mentor others along the way.** What he has accomplished, and continues to do so, makes him an outstanding role model for all veterans.” - Carol Prell, SOF Case Manager

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS
from across the nation who attended our annual
Sentinels Gala in April 2019.

CHAIRMAN & CEO
MIKE
CONKLIN

"People power made this possible, these veterans are a great investment in our community."

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER
PAUL KRUG

After graduating from the University of San Diego with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice, Paul accepted a position at the San Diego VA. He now works in the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Clinic in an effort to combat chronic headaches for those diagnosed with a TBI.

PEACE OF MIND
JOSH CHINN

His post military employment is currently with Google, where he works in the company's cyber protection unit.



IT GOES BEYOND
THE SENTINELS

Not only do Sentinel spouses provide support and encouragement, SOF support enables them in also achieving their goals. Chris Lamy's wife, Shana graduated alongside Chris with her bachelor's degree.

TRANSFORMING TO COMPLETE THE MISSION
JAMES STANTON

During his educational journey James endured multiple surgeries, including two hip replacements and residual headaches resulting from a spinal fluid leak. Despite the pain, James pushed through to earn his bachelor's degree in Business from Saint Mary's College as of July 2020. He has since accepted an Account Intel Analyst position with Sigma Computing and is looking forward to this next chapter.

THE SENTINELS GALA IS A SPECIAL OCCASION
to witness the impact of your generosity and meet the
Sentinels you help throughout the year.

HUMBLE AND GRATEFUL
JEREMY ZELT

Texas Southern University graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. Jeremy accepted a job at Phillips 66 as a Katalyst Associate.

SOF IS MY SUPPORT SYSTEM
LANIECE BELL

Graduated Holy Names University with a bachelor's in Sociology. Currently pursuing her Master of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA.

SUCCEEDING IN TECH
RAHUL HARPALANI

Received his Master of Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Business. Worked for Facebook as a Global Escalations Manager, has since advanced to Google as a Product Manager.



IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN MONEY
GENERAL PAUL J. SELVA (RET.)

United States Air Force General who served as the 10th Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was our guest of honor. In his moving speech he shared that he felt an imperative need to say thank you for all the Sentinels of Freedom organization does.

THE SUPPORT IS INVALUABLE
DAVID BURNETT

After releasing his book, Making a Nightstalker, an account of his journey with the 160th SOAR and subsequent transition to civilian life, David is currently spearheading the development and delivery of new machine gun weapon mounts for military vehicles, with his new company, BlackBridge Defense. He is also working hand in hand with United States Special Operations Command to develop capabilities for their Winter Warfare programs.

MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH GUIDANCE

BE A MENTOR

As our severely injured veterans embark on their journey to civilian life, they'll be guided by mentors who will help them visualize success in order to achieve their goals and overcome obstacles they may face along the way — including a few that might have looked insurmountable at first glance.

From deciding which degree or job to shoot for to learning tactics for financial stability, mentors in this program help Sentinels put the pieces together as they navigate this next, new, exciting phase of their lives, one victory at a time.



MENTOR
Brian Helberg
Executive Director
of Finance
at Kaiser Permanente
Employee Self Serve
System (ESS) Finance
National Facilities Services



SENTINEL
Nicholas Kowalski
US Navy Special Boat Team Twenty
University of San Diego Graduate
BS Degree in Accounting
Audit Associate
at DeLoitte Touche
Founder of 619Photography.com

“I consider my connection with Nick as mutually beneficial. He is very smart and articulate, and well on his way to a highly successful career. Similar to my post military path, Nick has entered into public accounting to become a CPA, so this mentorship was a natural fit. I shared some of my experiences with him and provided insight on how to succeed in a challenging career. I have no doubt Nick will accomplish great things, and I consider it an honor to know him.”

“SOF really knocked it out of the park with the mentorship program. Brian is an intelligent and easy going individual who has accomplished a tremendous amount. It should have been no surprise but he is a caring professional who exemplifies what it means to be a mentor. Our mentor relationship has boosted my confidence entering the corporate world. We always had “backup” in the military if we needed it and my relationship with Brian has been like “backup” for the corporate world. It feels good to have someone to turn to for support and to navigate a challenging work environment. I cannot thank SOF enough for all they do.”



2019 OUTSTANDING SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Each year Sentinels of Freedom recognizes 4 corporations and their leadership members that have provided outstanding support to and the wounded and injured veterans we serve. **These corporations and their employees have gone above and beyond in their efforts to make sure that we as a nation provide tangible services and opportunities to our post-9/11 veterans who have served and sacrificed at our nation's call.**

The leadership of these corporations and the opportunities they provide through, internships, career development programs, job training, in-kind services, and networking is a testimony not only to their goodwill and respect for our veterans but also a great investment in our communities. They assist our veterans with attaining their ultimate goal of a meaningful career.

Without the tremendous support of corporations, citizens, and communities, we would not be able to help these veterans achieve their goals in education and onto their objectives in each of their careers.

OUR 2019 OUTSTANDING SUSTAINING CORPORATE MEMBERS ARE:

GENERAL DYNAMICS AND GENERAL DYNAMICS MISSION SYSTEMS

GENERAL DYNAMICS

Chris Marzilli - Executive Vice President

Information Technology and Mission Systems

Chris Brady - President Mission Systems

Devon Engle - General Council General Dynamics

Mike McDermott - Vice President of Marketing for Mission Systems

Mike Neal - Marketing and Strategic Communications Mission Systems

Sharon Dunbar U.S.A.F. MAJ GEN Ret. - Vice President, General Dynamics
Mission SystemsGENERAL DYNAMICS
Mission Systems

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Mary King U.S.A. Ret. - Vice President Human Resources
and Chief Diversity Officer

Jimmy Harris - Chief of Community Relations

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Randall Stillinger U.S.A. MAJ Ret. - Manager, Military
and Veterans InitiativesTimothy Raynor U.S.M.C. Lt. Col. Ret. - Captain & Chief Pilot
American Airlines Chicago

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

David Perry U.S.N. Ret. - Corporate Vice President
and Chief Global Business OfficerJoseph Mulloy U.S.N. Vice Admiral Ret. - Vice President for
Marine Systems at Northrop Grumman

"From all of us at Sentinels of Freedom, thank you and all the employees of your respective corporations, you are making a huge difference in the lives of these deserving veterans."



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

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YOUTUBE.COM/SENTINELSOFFREEDOM

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