



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR
MISSION

A national nonprofit organization that helps severely wounded and injured post-9/11 veterans with comprehensive personal support as they complete their higher education towards achieving success in their post-military careers.

YOUR INVESTMENT IN THEIR FUTURE
HELPS US MEET OUR NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

WWW.SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

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.



Sentinel Jesse Cottle
University of San Diego



Sentinel Alissa Maerzke
Harvard University



Sentinel Dan Calbi
Columbia University



Sentinel Ben Diu
University of Denver



Sentinel Mechele Fonck
Montana State University

DEAR SENTINELS OF FREEDOM SUPPORTERS AND THE VETERANS WHOM WE SERVE,

As we take a moment to reflect on our impact to the 124 Post-9/11 wounded and injured veterans we accepted in 2023, we are filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support of our mission since our inception in 2002.

Throughout the past year, the money raised has empowered us to offer comprehensive support tailored to the unique needs of each veteran we serve. From financial coaching and UDEMY online skills classes to mentorship and job placement assistance, your contributions have helped us offer comprehensive support through our Bridge for Education Program, tailored to the unique needs of each individual veteran student.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of your donations. We understand the importance of ensuring that every dollar is used effectively to maximize its impact, and we are dedicated to upholding the trust you have placed in us.

With your continued support, in the upcoming years we will be able to expand our programs and student veteran resource centers to reach even more veterans in need of educational support and tutoring.

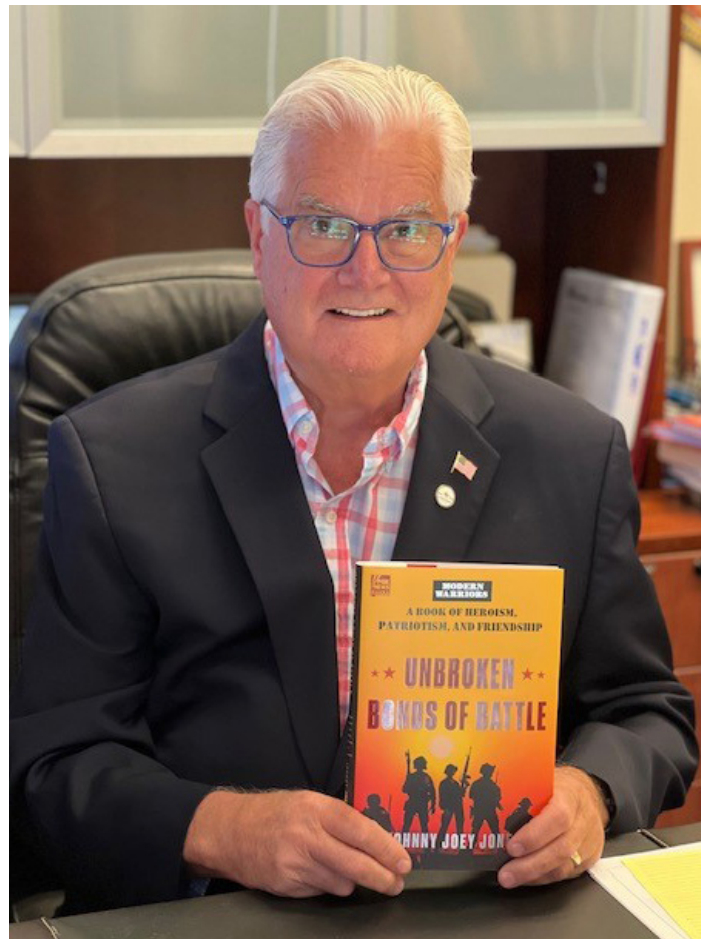
Beyond the tangible impact, your generosity sends a powerful message of gratitude and appreciation to those who have sacrificed much for our country.

With your help, we will remain committed to empowering wounded and injured Post-9/11 veterans in becoming productive and self-sufficient members of their communities as they transition back to civilian life.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

MIKE CONKLIN
Chairman & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Conklin".



OUR IMPACT

737 Veterans Directly Assisted Since Inception as of 12/31/2023

Once a Sentinel always a Sentinel. We will always continue to support our Sentinels in their post-military transition. Staying in touch long after their graduation to see if any future support or guidance is needed.



90% The Average Disability Rating That Our Sentinels Receive From Veteran Affairs

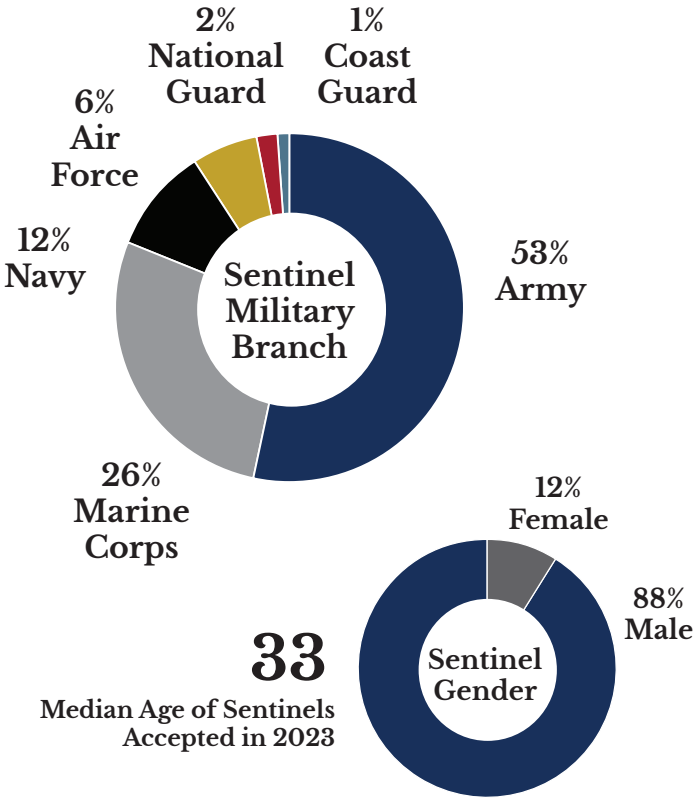
37% of the Sentinels Since Inception as of 12/31/2023 are Purple Heart Recipients

Each Sentinel must have a VA disability rating of 60% or higher have been wounded or injured in a combat or training related event Post-9/11 and are committed to pursuing their higher education.

35% of Accepted Sentinels with a Visible Injury or Physical Disabilities
Blindness, Deafness, Gun Shot Wound, Paraplegic, Amputation, or Burns

95% of Accepted Sentinels with a Non-visible Injury or Mental Disability
PTSD, TBI, Depression, or Other

70% Combat | Percentage Of Sentinels Accepted In Our Program Who Were Wounded In Combat, Service, Or Training
18% Service
12% Training

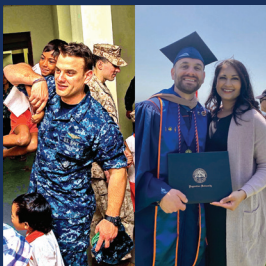


People with disabilities represent the single largest and most diverse minority in the country. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, In 2022, persons with a disability accounted for 12 percent of the civilian noninstitutional population.* Some key statistics on employment rate for veterans with a service-connected (SC) disability rating are 35.1% of veterans with a SC disability have a disability rating of 50% or higher and only 25% of the 131,900 veterans with a SC rating of 70% or higher are employed.**

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



Sentinel Jazzmen Blackwell
Duke University



Sentinel Cameron Markowitz
Pepperdine University



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. Comprising a blend of long-term members and two graduated Sentinels with the first-hand experience of the program. Together, they provide their time, leadership, and guidance to ensure our passion for helping disabled veterans in achieving their educational goals and establishing fulfilling careers beyond military service for years to come.



MIKE CONKLIN
Chairman
CEO
Sentinels of Freedom



MIKE SANDY
Board Secretary
CFO
Sentinels of Freedom



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



SAMANTHA CHAPMAN
Vice President of Programs
Sentinels of Freedom



PETE WALSH
Founder, President
and CEO Owards LLC



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



STACY HADEKA
Senior Associate in
Government Contracts
Hogan Lovells US LLP



MARY KING
Executive Vice President,
People & Culture,
Invenergy LLC



DAVID HALVERSON
LT. GENERAL
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED
President, Cypress
International



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



JASON CHURCH
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED
Graduated Sentinel
Attorney



HT TRAN
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED
Graduated Sentinel
Community & Citizenship
Manager
Turner Construction Company

RON LOWE
MAJOR GENERAL
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED
Executive Director of
General Contracting
AT&T (Retired)



MARTY KAPLAN
1937 - 2019
Board of Directors Emeritus

2023 OUTSTANDING SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Every year, Sentinels of Freedom recognizes exceptional corporations and their esteemed leaders for their unwavering support towards our mission.

The commendable leadership exhibited by these corporations, along with the invaluable internships, career development programs, job training, in-kind services, and networking opportunities they provide, serves as a testament to their profound respect for our veterans but also as a remarkable investment in our communities. 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.

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Mission Systems

GENERAL DYNAMICS AND GENERAL DYNAMICS MISSION SYSTEMS

Chris Marzilli - Executive Vice President Information Technology and General Dynamics Mission Systems (Retired)

Chris Brady - President General Dynamics Mission Systems

Mike McDermott - Vice President of Marketing for General Dynamics Mission Systems

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

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**

Jimmy Harris - Chief of Community Relations

**AMERICAN AIRLINES**

Timothy Raynor U.S.M.C. Lt. Col. Ret. - Captain & Chief Pilot American Airlines Chicago

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**

Joseph Mulloy U.S.N. Vice Admiral Ret. - Vice President for Marine Systems at Northrop Grumman

**CHEVRON**

Juliet Don - Corporate Affairs Representative

**SAFeway**

Patti Luporini - Public Affairs Coordinator

**HOMESITE SERVICES**

Tina Tomei - President CEO

SENTINEL'S

BRIDGE FOR EDUCATION

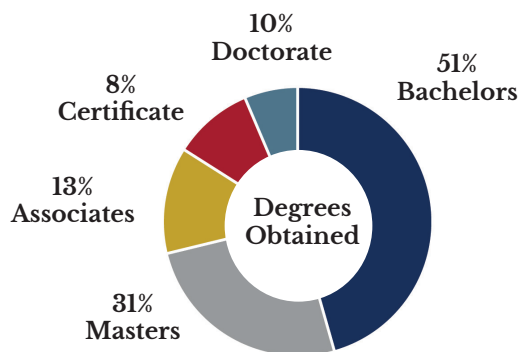
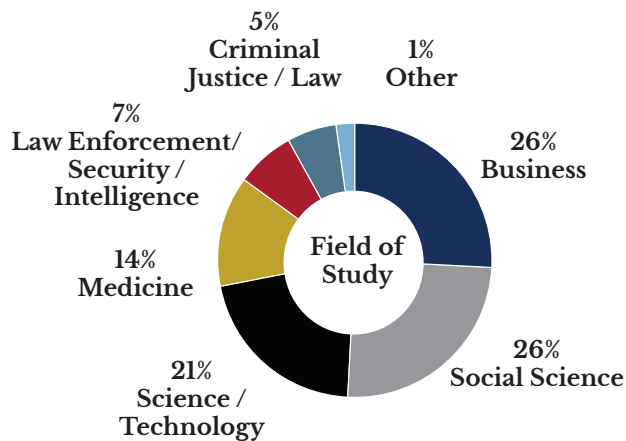
Our program is comprehensive, high touch, multifaceted, and based upon each individual veterans needs. Our support gives Sentinels flexibility to focus their attention on their studies, career, and family. As a Sentinel moves through school, ongoing assistance is provided in the form of mentoring, life skills coaching, career development, networking, budgeting, financial planning, and more.

124 Sentinels Served in 2023

30 Sentinels Accepted in 2023

90% of Sentinels completed the Bridge for Education Program Successfully

38 Graduated Sentinels in 2023



*Sentinels may be assisted in obtaining more than one degree.



7 STUDENT VETERAN RESOURCE CENTERS SERVING OVER 2,000+ VETERANS PER YEAR ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

We work with institutions of higher learning to help develop, launch, and provide materials for Student Veteran Resource Centers (SVRC's) across the country. SVRC's offer a physical and emotional "safe space" for veterans to connect, share, and support each other in a calm, quiet environment (particularly important for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and/or traumatic brain injuries.)



CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM & UDEMY



WWW.UDEMY.COM

Udemy is an online learning and teaching marketplace with over 155,000 courses and 40 million students. There are many popular courses on information technology, programming, marketing, project management, lifestyle and more. Udemy offers full course curriculum for multiple certification programs. Sentinels of Freedom and Udemy announced their partnership on Veterans Day in 2021. The platform is now offered as a resource for all Sentinels to take courses to upskill their current knowledge and excel both in school and the workforce.



SENTINEL PAUL RODRIGUEZ

Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps
The University of Texas, Permian Basin
Bachelors of Business Administration Marketing

“Udemy played a pivotal role in equipping me with the necessary skills to transition into the tech industry. I’ve honed my abilities in four coding languages, software development, data analytics/ engineering, and even delved into machine learning for cloud-based big data projects. Udemy has been a fundamental resource in all my upskilling endeavors. So, I wholeheartedly recommend it to other veterans looking to explore similar paths – they definitely shouldn’t overlook the opportunities Udemy offers.”



DAVE RAMSEY

Money stress is a daily reality for many individuals and families. Dave Ramsey offers the Ramsey+ program that includes the best resources and budgeting tools, designed to give everyone a proven path to get out of debt, save money, and live a life free of money stress. Ramsey+ gives families access to: Financial Peace University, premium access to EveryDollar budgeting app, free audiobooks, 20+ hours of additional courses, a free one-on-one coaching call, exclusive access to event livestreams, discounts on products from their partners, and more.

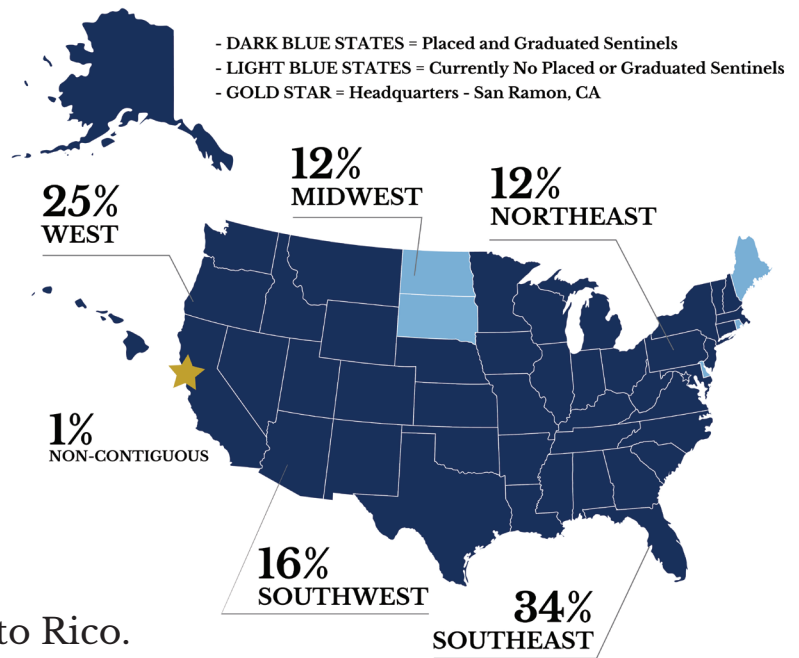


AMERICAN CORPORATE PARTNERS

American Corporate Partners (ACP) is a national nonprofit organization focused on helping returning veterans and active duty spouses find their next careers through one-on-one mentoring, networking and online career advice. More than 1 million veterans are expected to transition from the armed forces to civilian life over the next five years. ACP engages the American people in a unique volunteer opportunity to provide career guidance to returning military as they transition back into civilian life. They believe that the biggest issue facing our returning service members is not unemployment – it’s underemployment.

OUR SENTINELS LIVE ALL ACROSS THE U.S.

Sentinels of Freedom has **SENTINELS** LIVING IN 46 STATES throughout the U.S. as well as Brazil, Italy, and Puerto Rico.



UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND TRADE SCHOOLS ATTENDED IN 2023 BY OUR SENTINELS

American Career College
 American Military University
 American University
 Arizona State University
 Auburn University
 Aviation Institute of Maintenance
 Bates Technical College
 California State University, Long Beach
 California State University, Northridge
 California State University, Sacramento
 Campbell University
 Carroll College
 Colorado Christian University
 Colorado State University
 Columbia University
 Concordia University Irvine
 Duke University
 Eastern New Mexico University
 Eastern Virginia Medical School
 Fielding Graduate University
 Freed Hardeman University
 Genesee Community College
 Georgetown University
 Harvard Kennedy School of Business
 Harvard University
 Ivy Tech Community College
 Kansas State University
 Keiser University
 Liberty University
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola University Maryland
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Methodist University
 Montana State University
 National University
 New Mexico University
 North Carolina State
 Northern Illinois University
 Northwestern University
 Norwich University
 Oregon Health & Science University
 Parker University
 Penn State University
 Pepperdine University
 Point Loma Nazarene University
 Reed College
 Rice University
 Rollins College
 Rosalind Franklin University
 Royal Military College of Canada
 Rutgers University
 Saint Mary's College of California
 Sandhills Community College
 San Diego State University
 Stanford University
 Southwestern Acupuncture College
 St. Martins University
 Stony Brook University
 The Catholic University of America
 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 The University of Texas at San Antonio
 Thomas Edison State University
 Troy University
 University of Arizona
 University of California, Riverside

University of Charleston, West Virginia
 University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine
 University of Colorado Boulder
 University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
 University of Denver
 University of Georgia
 University of Holy Cross
 University of Louisville
 University of Maryland
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan
 University of Michigan
 University of North Carolina, Charlotte
 University of North Carolina, Wilmington
 University of Pacific - McGeorge School of Law
 University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School
 University of San Diego
 University of South Carolina
 University of Southern California
 University of South Florida
 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Texas, San Antonio
 University of the Cumberland
 University of the District of Columbia
 University of Virginia School of Law
 University of Washington, Tacoma
 University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Vanderbilt University
 Western Carolina University
 Weteran Governors University
 Youngstown State University

SENTINEL

ED HERTZOG

U.S Navy SEAL, Master Chief Petty Officer
 Special Operations Combat Medic
 Master of Acupuncture, Southwest Acupuncture College
 Acupuncturist at VA Outpatient Center



Born and raised with a spirit of adventure, Sentinel Ed Hertzog served as a U.S. Navy SEAL, completing an astonishing 14 combat deployments before he was injured in 2002 in Afghanistan. The injuries Ed carries are not just physical but also emotional, borne from the difficulties of multiple deployments, exposure to explosives, high altitude low opening (HALO) jumps, and direct-action assaults. After discharge, he found himself grappling with the aftermath, navigating a tumultuous path that led to unexpected places.

Seeking stability and financial security after being discharged from the military, Ed ventured into the corporate world as the Director of International New Ventures for Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas. However, this transition proved to be disillusioning, as he found the environment to be toxic. Upon leaving, Ed embarked on a journey of self-discovery, relocating first to Pagosa Springs, CO and later to the outskirts of Boulder, CO. This move was not just a change of scenery but a quest to chart a new course. Soon Ed found himself engaging with fellow veterans and attending veteran retreats providing solace and a sense of community in times of turmoil.

Through the guidance of our mentorship program, Ed connected with fellow Sentinel Myles Grantham and was introduced to a veterans community service organization called The Mission Within, which is a premier clinical psychedelic retreat providing specialized treatments for PTSD, mTBI, depression, and anxiety within the veteran community, Ed found renewed purpose in helping others navigate their own journeys of healing and self-discovery. This new purpose would lead him to pursue his higher education and ultimately find a renewed sense of purpose and discover a new passion—acupuncture.

With the acceptance into the Sentinels of Freedom's Bridge for Education program and utilizing the GI Bill Ed was able to finding funding towards higher education. Ed achieved his educational goals by graduating in 2023 with a Masters degree in Acupuncture from Southwestern Acupuncture College.

Ed's post-military journey serves as a testament to the strong spirit of the human soul. Through hardship and heartache, he has emerged as another great example of the power of the Bridge for Education program by showing other veterans that even amidst the darkest of nights, there exists the promise of a brighter dawn.

"Serving our Nation for 25 years, I started my life over at the age of 50. With the financial support and flexibility given to me by Sentinels of Freedom I was able to progress in my personal health and my professional career and for that I am forever grateful."

Eddie Hertzog

COMPANIES THAT HAVE HIRED OUR SENTINELS IN 2023

Allen Orthopedics
 Atrium Health
 Baylor College of Medicine
 Boeing
 Boston Consulting Group
 Delano Joint Union HS
 Denver Health
 Desert Recreation District

Duke University Hospital
 Elite Medical Wellness
 Ernst & Young
 Info Fly Ops
 Kirkland & Ellis
 MiKinsey & Co.
 Mobia

Orange County Fire Department
 Patients First Medical
 Profitable Ideas Exchange
 Salem Health
 Salish Cliffs Golf Course
 STREAM Captial Partners
 University of Iowa Hospital Clinics

USAA
 US Air Force
 VA Montana
 Victory Strategies
 Virginia Systems & Tech Inc.
 Vistelar, LLC
 Washtington DC VA
 Yale Residency

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.



“Sentinels of Freedom has allowed me to accomplish my educational goals. Over the last 3+ years, my life has taken many turns. Some were for the best and some were for the worst. However, SOF has been a constant reminder that I am not alone.

Through their support and the support of my mentor Christopher Bownds, I was able to continue providing for my family while I chased my educational goals. I consider the SoF team not only my greatest advocates but most importantly, friends. I will forever be grateful for all the support that SOF has provided me and will always be ready to give back to help their mission to continue.”

- Phillip Dobbins

SENTINEL PHILLIP DOBBINS
 Sergeant First Class U.S. Army
 BA Occupational Education from Troy University
 Military & Family Support Center at Dyess AFB

JOIN OUR VETERAN MENTORING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Having a good mentor in your life can make all the difference in your confidence, goals, and self-worth. Wounded veterans are no different, and Sentinels of Freedom wants to give our brave service members the same opportunity to succeed.

That's why we pair our veterans with a personalized mentor that they can turn to for help with transitioning back to civilian life and succeeding in their education and career. If you are a wounded veteran or civilian who is ready and capable of providing this type of mentorship to a veteran, you can easily apply to be a mentor by completing our contact form on our website at www.sentinelsoffreedom.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IT DOESN'T TAKE A FORTUNE.

Even the support of a few people will make a direct impact on the post-military lives of our Sentinels.

HOST A FUNDRAISER.

Join forces and start a fundraising campaign to help severely wounded veterans by raising funds; help them complete their higher education and successfully transition back to civilian life.

Get creative with your own fundraising campaign. Host a workout fundraiser within your community, open a curbside bake sale, gather a team and host a walkathon, or organize a golf scramble tournament at your local golf course. The possibilities are endless and every dollar raised goes to providing comprehensive personal support and removing financial obstacles for severely wounded post-9/11 veterans. What a great story!



WE HAVE COMPANY MATCHING



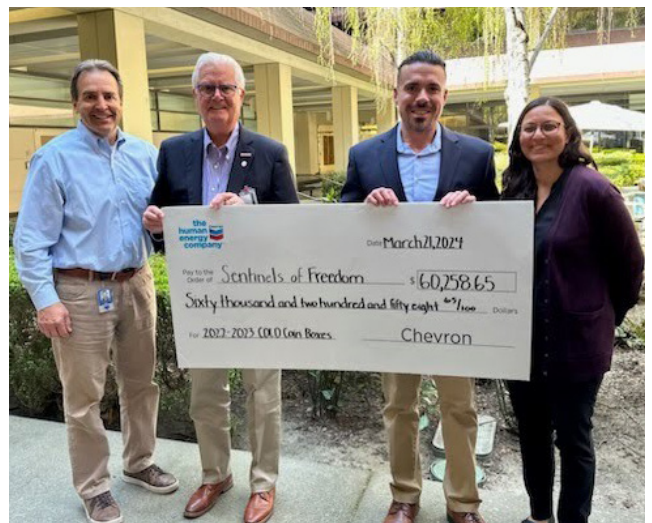
Double the Donation
matching gifts made easy

Double the Donation maintains the largest, most robust, and accurate matching gift database in the industry. Donate more money to veterans from corporate matching gifts program. Check to see if your employer participates.

General Dynamics Mission Systems committed to match all donations up to \$50,000 in 2023.

CHEVRON COIN BOX DONATIONS

Chevron is pleased to provide the Sentinels of Freedom the opportunity to be the beneficiary of the coin boxes in our corporate stations during the months of April and May in 2023.



CRYPTOCURRENCY

Making your crypto donations through The Giving Block gives you the most reliable way to reduce your capital gains taxes while supporting a cause of your choice.

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

- Stocks - Real Estate - Life Insurance
- Corporate Grants - Foundation Grants



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

P.O. Box 1316 San Ramon, CA 94583
Phone: 925-380-6342

Federal Tax ID: 20-8139201

SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

INFO@SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/SENTINELSOFFREEDOM

INSTAGRAM.COM/SENTINELSOFFREEDOM

YOUTUBE.COM/@SENTINELSOFFREEDOM

LINKEDIN.COM/SENTINELSOFFREEDOM

SCAN TO MAKE A DONATION

