



SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION

A national nonprofit organization that assists wounded and injured Post-9/11 veterans with comprehensive personal support as they navigate their higher education towards achieving success in their Post-Military Careers.

YOUR INVESTMENT IN THEIR FUTURE
HELPS MEET OUR NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

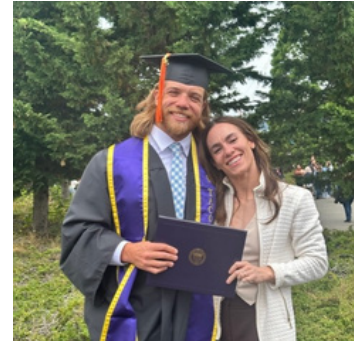
WWW.SENTINELSOFFREEDOM.ORG

OUR PROGRAM:

BRIDGE FOR EDUCATION

EDUCATION

Case managers support our Sentinel's educational journey in line with their capabilities and goals. Sentinel's Bridge for Education helps by connecting Sentinels with local and national resources, networking opportunities, and encouraging them to connect with their Student Veteran Resource Centers. As challenges arise, case managers are able to assist Sentinels in finding a solution.



TUTORING

Recent studies regarding veteran dropout rates in the first year of Community College detail that a high percentage of veterans report anxiety and frustration in completing higher math requirements required to obtain a degree. For the veterans joining the Sentinels of Freedom Bridge for Education program, we can provide basic math and higher math tutoring at no cost to the veteran. We also can deliver in-person tutoring with Community Colleges with an active Student Veteran Resource Center with appropriate staffing and resources that align with our mission. **In 2025, Sentinels of Freedom partnered with NetTutor to provide 24/7 access to tutoring for Sentinels in the Bridge for Education Program.**

JOB ASSISTANCE

Sentinels of Freedom encompasses a range of services designed to help veterans transition into civilian careers seamlessly. These services may include career coaching, personalized resume building, interview preparation, and skills assessment, tailored to highlight the valuable experience gained during military service. Additionally, we may connect veterans with employers who prioritize hiring from this dedicated pool of individuals. Sentinels of Freedom also provides access to education platforms, like UDEMY, to enhance existing skills or acquire new ones, ensuring veterans are equipped with the tools they need to excel in their chosen fields.

MENTORING

Mentors are an integral part of the educational and professional journey. Sentinels may be paired with a mentor who can share information about their career path, provide guidance, motivation, emotional support, and role modeling. **Over time, these mentors may become a veteran's lifetime friend.**



FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Sentinels are provided resources and accountability to support their financial goals. They are provided with FREE access to the RAMSEY+ Financial Peace University and EveryDollar Budget and may also be introduced to a pro-bono financial planner to identify goals and work towards financial peace.



Sentinel Thomas Schlabach,
POIC US Navy,
Columbia University, MBA



Sentinel Ben Diu,
LCpl US Marine Corps,
University of Denver,
MSc Computer Science



Sentinel Akbar Arsiwala,
LTJG US Navy,
University of Michigan, MBA



Sentinel Michael Matthews,
SSG US Army,
Catholic University,
BArch & MArch
MSc Net Zero Design



Sentinel Paul Mitchell,
CPT US Army,
University of Georgia, MBA

Dear Supporters,

As I write this on April 15, 2026, conflict once more rages in the Middle East. Once again, the brave men and women of our military, serving on land, at sea, and in the air, face grave danger.

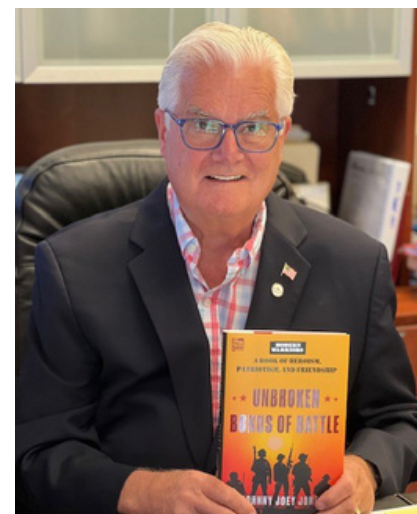
I find myself reflecting on an old John Wayne film about naval operations in the Pacific during World War II. It portrayed the fierce battles fought and the immense courage required for our military to stand in “Harm’s Way” for our nation and our way of life. That same courage holds true today.

At Sentinels of Freedom, we are closely monitoring incoming casualties to our military hospitals. We pray the numbers will not reach the painful levels seen in past wars like Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Yet we know there will be some. And when there are, we will be there, ready to listen, advise, and support.

After two decades of walking alongside these warriors, we understand the harsh reality many face: they can no longer return to their units, their buddies, their tribe. That transition is often the hardest battle of all.

Our focus is never on the injury. Our focus is on their potential. We help them see that a place still awaits them at America’s table of opportunity and abundance. We have guided hundreds of these resilient young warriors forward into higher education and meaningful careers. Once they regain confidence in a future worth fighting for, there is no stopping them.

A vital part of that confidence comes from knowing the American public, people like you, still believes in them, respects their service, and stands ready to help them succeed.



I have never thought of Sentinels of Freedom as a charity. I have always seen it as an investment, with the return reflected in what these veterans, given the right support, contribute to the strength of our nation and our communities. Thank you for believing in them. Like our motto says, “Veterans Never Stop Serving.”

Thank you for standing with us in this vital mission. Let us all pray that this conflict ends soon.

Mike Conklin
Chairman & CEO



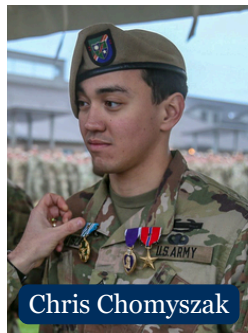
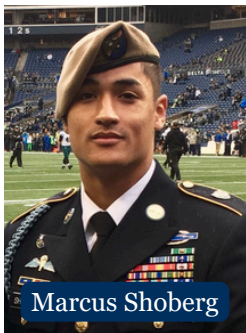
FIVE JOURNEYS, ONE MISSION:

How Sentinels of Freedom Helped Transform Determination into Opportunity

When five former Army Rangers, Marcus, Chris, Nicholas, Ethan, and Carson, transitioned from military service to civilian life, they each faced uncertainty, searching for purpose beyond the uniform. Though their paths began separately, they all found their way to Sentinels of Freedom and the Bridge for Education Program.

Their bond started in the 75th Ranger Regiment, where shared hardship built lasting brotherhood. That same connection helped guide them forward.

Marcus was the first to join after surviving severe injuries in Afghanistan. With support from Sentinels of Freedom, he pursued higher education and ultimately built a successful career in AI and cloud operations.



Chris followed, overcoming both physical and emotional challenges from his service. Through financial support, mentorship, and career guidance, he earned his degree and now works at Adobe.

Chris encouraged Ethan to apply. As a combat medic, Ethan carried the invisible wounds of war, but through the program, he found structure and purpose. Today, he is a software engineer at OpenAI.





Nicholas joined next, navigating both physical injuries and the challenge of leaving military life behind. With support from Sentinels of Freedom, he thrived at Harvard and is now entering the defense technology sector with a focus on helping trauma survivors.

Carson, inspired by Marcus, applied while searching for direction after the Army. With stability and mentorship from the program, he pursued new opportunities and now serves in federal law enforcement with Homeland Security Investigations.

While each journey is unique, one thing remains constant: Sentinels of Freedom provided the support, structure, and community they needed to succeed.

For these veterans, the program became more than financial assistance. It became a foundation for growth, a network of support, and a path forward.



Today, they are leaders, professionals, and community members continuing to serve in new ways.

To our supporters, your investment made these stories possible. Because of you, more veterans will have the opportunity to build meaningful futures beyond their service.

Their missions have changed, but their commitment to serve remains the same.

DONOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION

September 25, 2025 | San Ramon, California

In September 2025, Sentinels of Freedom hosted a special Donor Appreciation Reception in San Ramon, California to recognize the supporters and partners who help make our mission possible.

The evening brought together community leaders, veterans, donors, and Sentinels for a program focused on service, resilience, and the continued impact veterans make after military service.

Highlights included a performance by the Monte Vista High School Choir, remarks from SOF Founder and CEO Mike Conklin, and a featured address from SFC John Wayne Walding. Guests also heard from a panel of Sentinels, including Jake Brown, Manny Mendoza, Thomas Scoggins, Brian Vargas, and John Wayne Walding, who shared personal reflections on transition, recovery, leadership, and continued service to their communities.

During the event, the panelists were presented with the Sentinels of Freedom Medal of Freedom in recognition of their ongoing leadership and commitment to serving others.

The reception served as an important opportunity to thank the donors and partners whose support continues to provide wounded and severely injured veterans with education assistance, mentorship, career development, and long-term support as they transition into civilian life.



Thank You to Our Generous Partners

- AB Construction
- American Airlines
- Armen/Norman Associates
- AT&T
- Bishop Ranch
- Brookfield Residential
- Chevron
- Claremont Homes
- Colliers
- Diablo Valley Community College
- Elite Roofing and Waterproofing
- General Dynamics Missions Systems
- Greg Russell
- Home Site Services
- Lennar
- Los Positas Community College
- Mechanics Bank
- Northrup Grumman Marine Systems
- PG&E
- River Island
- San Francisco State College
- Underground Construction
- Wells Fargo



Montana State University's Student Veteran Resource Center (SVRC) has become an important hub for veterans and military-connected students pursuing higher education and career success. The center provides academic guidance, peer support, benefits assistance, and resources designed to help student veterans successfully transition from military service into civilian and academic life.

Sentinels of Freedom's relationship with Montana State University has grown through a shared commitment to supporting wounded and disabled post-9/11 veterans as they build their next chapter beyond military service. Working alongside the MSU Student Veteran Resource Center, Sentinels of Freedom has helped provide mentorship, financial assistance, career development support, and transitional resources through the Bridge for Education program.

One of the most impactful areas of collaboration has been the Sentinels of Freedom STEM Tutoring Grant Program. After several years of successful support at Montana State University, the program has helped student veterans overcome academic barriers, strengthen confidence in challenging coursework, and stay on track toward graduation and long-term career success. The success of the program at MSU helped support the nationwide expansion of Sentinels of Freedom's Math Tutoring Grant Program to additional Student Veteran Resource Centers across the country.

Together, Montana State University and Sentinels of Freedom continue working to ensure veterans have access to the resources, guidance, and support systems needed to thrive in higher education and beyond.



New grant funding provided to 7 SVRC's for STEM Tutoring support:

Chabot College, College of Alameda, Diablo Valley College, Las Positas College, Los Medanos College, Montana State University & University of Colorado Colorado Springs

“Supporting fellow veterans in mathematics and computer science has been both meaningful and rewarding.”

Eryn Rudolph

Veteran Peer Tutor

Travis W. Atkins Veteran Support Center, MSU - Bozeman

“The funding you provide ensures that our veteran and military-connected students have access to peer tutors who understand their unique challenges and can support them in achieving academic success.”

Todd N. Bucher

Director | VA School Certifying Official

Travis W. Atkins Veteran Support Center, MSU - Bozeman

“I’ve found that tutoring gives me a chance to pay it forward. Giving fellow veterans the tips, tricks, strategies and encouragement I wish I had access to when starting out.”

Jessica Falren

Veteran Peer Tutor

Travis W. Atkins Veteran Support Center, MSU - Bozeman



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GENERAL DYNAMICS Mission Systems

In 2025, General Dynamics Mission Systems partnered with Sentinels of Freedom for a special matching gift campaign supporting wounded and severely injured post-9/11 veterans.

Through the campaign, every donation was matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling support for education, career development, mentorship, and transition assistance for Sentinels rebuilding their lives after military service.

We are grateful to GDMS and every donor who helped expand the impact of our mission through this partnership.

LOS MEDANOS
COLLEGE

Los Medanos College,
Pittsburg, CA



Montana State
University, MT



Chabot College,
Hayward, CA



Diablo Valley College,
Pleasant Hill, CA



Las Positas College,
Livermore, CA



University of
Colorado Colorado
Springs



Alameda Community
College, Alameda, CA

STUDENT VETERAN RESOURCE CENTERS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Supporting Student Veterans Through Campus-Based Resources

Student Veteran Resource Centers provide an important point of connection for veterans pursuing higher education. These centers offer dedicated space, peer connection, campus guidance, and access to resources that help student veterans navigate school while balancing the unique challenges of life after military service.

Sentinels of Freedom supports the work of SVRCs by partnering with colleges, universities, and community partners to help expand resources for post-9/11 veterans. These centers are often where veterans first find community on campus, ask questions, receive referrals, and connect with support that can make a meaningful difference in their academic experience.

In 2025, Sentinels of Freedom strengthened this commitment through the STEM Tutoring Grant Program. The grant provides funding to colleges and universities with operational Student Veteran Resource Centers to expand or enhance in-person STEM tutoring for eligible post-9/11 veterans. The program supports tutoring in mathematics, science, engineering, computer science, and related fields. Each annual grant provides \$5,000 in institutional funding and covers up to \$20 per tutor hour for one academic year.

For many student veterans, STEM coursework can be a significant academic barrier. By funding structured, campus-based tutoring through trusted SVRCs, Sentinels of Freedom helps institutions provide targeted academic support that can improve course completion, strengthen retention in STEM pathways, and support progress toward graduation.

**REMOVING BARRIERS.
ADVANCING STEM SUCCESS.
STRENGTHENING FUTURES.**

ONCE A SENTINEL

ALWAYS A SENTINEL

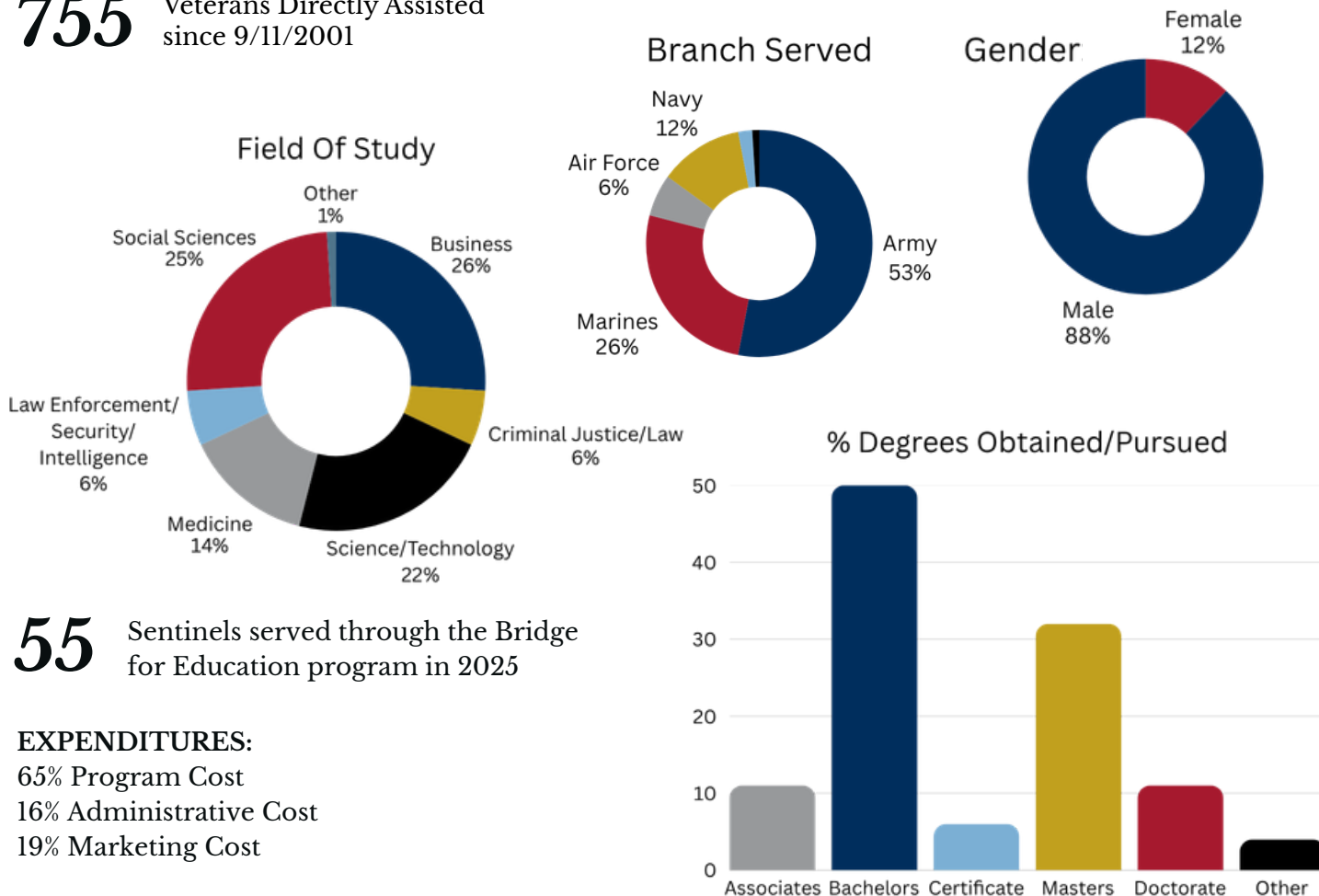
Many veterans face significant challenges when transitioning back into civilian life. For our Sentinels, those challenges are often compounded by severe wounds or injuries that may prevent them from returning to the military or pursuing physically demanding careers they once relied on.

As they work to navigate recovery and redefine their future, it can be difficult to envision what comes next. Through Sentinels of Freedom, however, they become part of a supportive community committed to helping them succeed both personally and professionally. Even after completing the program and graduating from school, Sentinels are encouraged to stay connected, seek guidance, share updates, and continue building on the foundation of support established through the program.

\$765,851 RAISED IN 2025 **88%** of Sentinels completed the Bridge for Education Program Successfully

16 SENTINELS GRADUATED IN 2025 **51%** Sentinels pursue STEM Related Degrees

755 Veterans Directly Assisted since 9/11/2001



55 Sentinels served through the Bridge for Education program in 2025

EXPENDITURES:

- 65% Program Cost
- 16% Administrative Cost
- 19% Marketing Cost

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

Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation

Sentinels of Freedom provides numerous ways for you to donate to veterans. Through monetary donations, in-kind, stocks and even crypto, you can ensure that your gift will truly impact the life of a Sentinel.

MONETARY DONATION

You can make a difference by making a one-time or monthly contribution to the Sentinels of Freedom by going to the link <https://sentinelsoffreedom.org/donate-to-veterans/> or scan the QR code below.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Every year companies and individuals donate services, products or other marketable items to Sentinels of Freedom for use by our Sentinels, or for auction and raffle items used to raise money for the Foundation.

PLANNED FINANCIAL GIFTS

These types of donations have a significant benefit to our wounded and injured veterans in our program, and they can have important advantages to you as well. Please discuss this option with your tax advisor before giving: Retirement Plan Donations, Bequest, Real Estate Donations, Stock & Bond Donations or Life Insurance Donations.

DONATE IN CRYPTOCURRENCY

Support Sentinels of Freedom by making a charitable gift in Bitcoin or another cryptocurrency. We accept donations in Bitcoin, Ethereum and over 70 leading cryptocurrencies. Make a donation and get an automatic tax receipt. 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.

CORPORATE GIVING

Affinity – We have partnered with corporations in social media challenges, dollar for dollar matching campaigns, as well as hat and t-shirt co-branding opportunities.

Foundations & Grants – Each year, Sentinels of Freedom proudly receives significant support from different types of foundations. If your company has a foundation or charitable giving division, you can make a huge difference in a wounded veteran's life by giving to Sentinels of Freedom.

Matching Gifts – Many corporations match charitable contributions of their employees dollar-for-dollar or more. There is no easier way to increase your impact and investment towards a wounded veteran. Contact your HR department today to find out if your company has a program that can double your gift, or use the search box provided here.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Please discuss this option with your tax advisor before giving.

For more details please visit www.sentinelsoffreedom.org/donate-to-veterans or contact us at: donate@sentinelsoffreedom.org

SCAN TO MAKE
A DONATION





SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

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