



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Marines Hike for One Mission

North Carolina – A group of U.S. Marines are going above and beyond in what they are calling “the journey for injured Marines.”

Fortunate Sons, a group of 18 active-duty Marines, are planning to collectively hike the entire 1,000-mile North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail” (MST) in the name of both charity and awareness. The 42-day journey begins October 2nd at Clingman’s Dome in the Great Smokey Mountains and ends at Jockey’s Ridge on the Outer Banks on Veterans Day weekend, November 13.

Fortunate Sons is a group of Marines bound by a commitment to raising awareness and support for injured Marines. What started as an idea, the hike has turned into a way to remember wounded brothers in arms, honor fallen comrades and show gratitude for those who have sacrificed so much in the name of freedom.

All funds raised in support of the event will be given to the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund.

Supporters can donate through the Semper Fi Fund web site, SemperFiFund.org. Select “Fortunate Sons” as the event name on the donation form.

Please consider covering the Fortunate Sons 1,000-mile hike!

- **Who:** Fortunate Sons
- **What:** Interviews of Fortunate Sons group members are available by contacting Mark Greenleif.
- **When:** Sunday, Oct. 2-Nov. 13
- **Where:** The Mountain-to-Sea-Trail through North Carolina
- **Web:** <http://semperfund.org/updates/fortunate-sons-hike>

The Semper Fi Fund (SFF) (<http://www.semperfund.org>) is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance and quality of life solutions for Marines and Sailors, as well as members of the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard who serve in support of Marine forces, when they become injured in post 9-11 combat or training operations, or they face life threatening illness or injury. Our fund provides relief to qualified Servicemembers and their families for immediate financial needs that arise during hospitalization and recovery, as well as perpetuating needs such as home modifications, customized transportation and specialized equipment.

The Semper Fi Fund has awarded over 33,000 financial grants totaling more than \$53 million in grants given to our injured and ill service members and their families.

The SFF was founded by Karen Guenther, a registered nurse and spouse of an active duty Marine who had first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by wounded Marines and sailors returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. She, along with a dedicated group of military spouses, established Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund in May of 2004.