



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund
Wounded Warrior Center • Bldg H49 • Camp Pendleton, CA 92055
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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3rd Annual Col Ripley Race benefits charity for injured service members!

First Lady of Maryland and Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs to attend the 2011 Ripley Race in Annapolis, Maryland

Annapolis, MD - This Sunday, November 6 more than 1,000 runners will be on hand for the 3rd Annual Ripley Race. Also, in attendance the First Lady of Maryland, Katie O'Malley, and the Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward Chow, Jr.. Katie O'Malley will serve as the Honorary Starter for the race as well as participate in the scenic 5K that runs through Downtown Annapolis.

Several members of Team Semper Fi (TSF) will also be participating in this weekend's race. Team Semper Fi is a rehabilitative sports program offered by the Semper Fi Fund. With their motto "Recovery through Sport," the team is made up of more than 270 servicemen and women who have overcome significant challenges and refused to let their injuries prevent them from competing in athletic events.

Established in 2009, the Ripley Race is a 5K road race to raise awareness and support for our men and women returning home from war. All proceeds of the race benefit the Semper Fi Fund.

"This race is about honoring our veterans. My father, Col. John Ripley, was a distinguished veteran and a man that always looked for ways to give back to his men, his country, and his Corps. Together with the Turning Point Sports team we have found a vehicle to continue that mission. A mission about giving back to those men and women that have given us so much! Get out of bed and come join the 1st Lady as we run through Annapolis." Tom Ripley, son of Col. John Ripley, USMC (Ret)

In addition to the race, the Ripley Race will be auctioning off a 1970 Dodge SuperBee on Ebay. The auction will be open for 10 days and proceeds will go to helping our nation's heroes. Please see the Ebay listing for more details:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ebaymotors/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=300618866488>

Please consider covering the Ripley Race, a run that will benefit injured service members and honor a true American hero, Marine Colonel John Ripley!

- **Who:** Race Coordinator Adam Borcz, Tom Ripley, the son of Col John Ripley, and members of Team Semper Fi available for interviews
- **What:** Ripley Race
- **When:** November 6, 2011 9:00 AM
- **Where:** Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Annapolis, MD
- **Links:** Semper Fi Fund – <http://semperfund.org> or <http://www.ripleyrace.com>

About the Semper Fi Fund - 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



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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 34,000 financial grants totaling more than \$54 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.

Team Semper Fi (TSF) (<http://semperfund.org/team-semper-fi/>) is an athletic sports team made up of more than 270 injured service members who compete in a wide range of athletic events across the country. With their motto "Recovery Through Sport" Team Semper Fi is a rehabilitative sports program offered by the Semper Fi Fund. The team is made up of servicemen and women who have overcome significant challenges and refused to let their injuries prevent them from competing in athletic events.

About Ripley Race - After 11 years of continuous, worldwide combat operations, nearly 45,000 soldiers have been wounded – and many returning veterans come home to new challenges. We believe that as citizens, we share an obligation to take care of these men and women; honoring the sacrifices they have made. Our mission is to step in where government leaves off. Established in 2009, the Ripley Race is a 5K road race to raise awareness and support for our men and women returning home from war. All proceeds of the race benefit the Semper Fi Fund.