



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Marines finish 1,000 mile Hike for Injured Marines

North Carolina – A group of U.S. Marines from North Carolina went above and beyond in what they are calling “an experience that we all will forever remember. A time when we all came together to help our fellow Marines.”

Fortunate Sons, a group of 18 active-duty Marines, finished their 1,000-mile North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail” (MST) hike on Veterans Day, 11-11-11. The Marines were bound by a commitment to raising awareness and support for injured Marines and the Semper Fi Fund as they made their trek from the mountains to the sea.

Despite the physical challenges on their bodies, a demanding trail and bad weather, the group finished their mission in 42-days. Their journey began October 2nd at Clingman's Dome in the Great Smokey Mountains and ended with family, friends and supporters at Jockey's Ridge on the Outer Banks.

“The hike has been an amazing experience for all of us. We have been given the opportunity to meet a lot of generous and kind people along the trail. The support from communities along the way was amazing and it never ceases to amaze us all of the support North Carolinians have for the Marines.” said event organizer Marine Mark Greenlief.

As a way to give back to their fellow Marines, Sailors and their families, all funds raised in support of the event will be given to the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund.

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

Interviews can be arranged with Fortunate Sons participants by contacting Mark Greenlief at (847) 668-2339.

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 36,000 financial grants totaling more than \$55 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.