For the sixth year in a row, The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation has issued its Double Down for Veterans match campaign. Through December 31, The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation will match all donations, up to $10 million.

Bob Parsons, U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and founder of YAM Worldwide, PXG and GoDaddy, issued the challenge via video address in his annual Marine Corps birthday salute, where he also paid special tribute to the 35th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is dedicated to the 2.7 million service members, both men and women, who served in the Vietnam War.

“I challenge everyone to join Renee and me in support of Semper Fi Fund to help create a better world for today’s veterans by providing the resources they need to return home and rebuild their lives,” said American entrepreneur, philanthropist and Vietnam veteran Bob Parsons. “It is vitally important that we continue to support the men and women who have made sacrifices in service to our country,” adds businesswoman and philanthropist Renee Parsons. “Every dollar makes a difference, and the match campaign is a chance for donors to double their impact.”

Last year’s Double Down for Veterans Campaign raised more than $20 million and brought The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation’s cumulative support for Semper Fi Fund to more than $31 million. GoDaddy is again leading the charge with an initial $50,000 donation.

“Our mission is based on a simple principle — be there to support our country’s heroes in their time of need,” said Semper Fi Fund President, Executive Director and Founder, Karen Guenther. “Thanks to the amazing support of Bob and Renee Parsons, we are able to extend critical resources to more veterans and deserving families than ever before.”

Donations to the Double Down for Veterans campaign can be made at semperfifund.org/match. Follow the progress of the campaign and learn more about those benefiting from the work of the organization on Semper Fi Fund’s social media channels.
Just the idea of being surrounded by others who walked in the same shoes, same places... you can be real with these other nurses. This opportunity to connect is amazing!
During the 2017 Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) weekend, the Semper Fi Fund (SFF) was honored to host 24 combat ICU nurses. This weekend reunited some of the many ICU nurses with each other and with combat wounded service members. The nurses served in U.S. combat hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in D.C., and San Antonio Military Medical Center.

The nurses traveled from across the nation to volunteer for the Fund during the MCM weekend. They were able to come together for a luncheon to share their experiences and to reconnect. In the words of one nurse, “Just the idea of being surrounded by others who walked in the same shoes, same places...you can be real with these other nurses. This opportunity to connect is amazing!” This particular nurse treated about 4,000 patients in a 6-month deployment and first learned of SFF while caring for U.S. Marines in Germany.

The nurses also joined our community athletes at the annual Semper Fi Fund MCM Pasta Dinner on the night before the race. The evening ended with lots of hugs and tears during an impromptu MCM yearbook signing between the nurses and many of the service members in attendance. On Sunday, the nurses were cheering on the runners near our water station during the race. According to one nurse, “I think for me, the biggest impact of this weekend was on Saturday night. Seeing some of those who had been wounded...I’ve never seen them once they’ve healed. So, seeing them, seeing their resiliency and how happy they are...seeing them connect with their brothers and sisters...it is overwhelming! Being able to shake their hand or give them a hug is truly indescribable! It helped us with our own healing.”

Many of the nurses are planning to run the 2018 MCM alongside their former patients and other wounded service members.

The Semper Fi Fund celebrates the service of these true heroes! Our Army, Navy, Air Force and civilian nurses gave their ALL often for long hours in very difficult terrain and situations to keep our service members alive and able to make it back home. How wonderful it will be to see them run, side-by-side, at the 2018 MCM!
The Marine Corps Marathon is always one of the highlights of the year for the Semper Fi Fund. This year was a MCM weekend like no other! We were blessed to have Medal of Honor recipient, Kyle Carpenter, and actor JW Cortes, both U.S. Marine Corps combat veterans, along with Team Semper Fi and our Community Athletes represent the Fund in the MCM. Kyle ran the Marathon while JW took on the 10K.

Our 400 Community Athletes raised over $470,000 and that amount is still climbing! The MCM fundraising requirement is $600 per runner, but these amazing runners averaged over $1,000.

Our top Community Athlete fundraisers broke bread with our injured service members that are a part of Team Semper Fi Fund at Crawford Hall, Marine Corps Barracks Washington DC on Friday night, while the Fund’s own Kathy Wise, Deputy, Community Sports was honored as a Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame Ambassador for her work. We also had 24 combat ICU nurses join our Community Athletes and volunteer during the MCM weekend helping to set up the Semper Fi Fund MCM Pasta Dinner Saturday night, and then cheering on the runners at our water station during the race on Sunday.

Needless to say, this was a memorable weekend. We are humbled and inspired by the athletes who choose to represent and support the Fund by raising money, year-round, for our critical mission. And a huge shout-out to all of our staff and volunteers who came out MCM weekend. Your dedication, time and support is unmatched! We have the BEST family!
Christmas magic was in the air as SFF volunteers gathered on November 19 to help prepare and package over **14,000 Christmas Tree Ornaments** for our wounded, ill and injured service members. This is one of the Fund’s favorite traditions. The emotional testimonials we receive back from our service members explaining how much these ornaments mean to them keeps the momentum going year after year. We are also equally touched by the community that comes out to help — boy and girl scout troops, retired military, local elementary and high schools. We are overwhelmed by such a display of love at this special time of year to help make sure our service members know they are not alone, that they are supported and loved, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

The General Chesty Puller VFW Post #1503 in Dale City, Virginia graciously hosts our event year after year. Over **200 volunteers** of all ages, 5-year-olds to those in their 90s, spent the day packaging the ornaments to ensure delivery before the holidays. A delicious lunch was provided by Mission BBQ. Holiday music filled the air while our “elves” stayed busy merrily preparing over 14,000 holiday ornaments to be shipped to service members assisted by Semper Fi Fund.

### In the Words of Our Service Members

“**It’s the little things SFF does...like the ornament I get every year — it means the world to me.**”

“Thank you for this ornament. It’s nice to know someone remembers. Someone cares.”

“**SFF is a family. Thank you for the reminder every year that you are thinking of me.**”

“I look forward to getting this ornament every year — we have a small tree dedicated solely to this.”

Please join us next year if you are in the area for our 10th Ornament Packing Party. It’s sure to bring the Holiday spirit alive for one and all!
Charles, an Army Scout, was deployed to Iraq when he was thrown from his vehicle by an improvised explosive devise (IED). He began having problems standing up and was going through physical therapy in-country. Charles was medically retired for a herniated disc in his lower back and PTSD in 2005.

“When I look back, I was mentally in bad shape,” Charles recalled. “It took me a long time to realize I needed help and to accept help. That's when I started to change.” Charles went to Mississippi for a Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program and an Apprenticeship Program event. “I was completely blown away by the whole thing. During the event they found out I was into photography. I wanted to get on my feet and be an entrepreneur, but I didn't have the gear to do that type of work. All I had was a basic point-and-shoot camera. My skill set was higher than the equipment I was using.”

Thanks to our generous donors, Semper Fi Fund is able to provide programs such as the Jinx McCain Horsemanship and Apprenticeship Programs.
For Christian, the things he witnessed in Iraq as a Navy Corpsman left deep emotional wounds. He has been diagnosed with severe PTSD and struggles with suicidal thoughts on a regular basis. Christian’s service dog, Faith, and his love of music have assisted in the healing process. Thanks to your gifts, Christian received financial support and mentoring through our Veteran 2 Veteran Program.

“Semper Fi Fund is more than the best nonprofit organization — they are family. From the moment I separated from active duty until this very day, Semper Fi Fund has been there every step of my recovery — from immediate financial assistance with bills to providing airfare to receive my service dog to purchasing a guitar to help me heal.”

Cedric, a Master Sergeant in the Army, was serving in Afghanistan when he stepped on an IED, resulting in the amputation of both of his legs. Your generosity gave Cedric easy access to the upstairs of his home.

“Much, much, much love and appreciation to you guys for this amazing chair lift for our home! We love being able to come upstairs and have prayers with the girls in their room rather than them coming downstairs all the time! You have been our angel since day one! We thank God for people like you watching over us and making these past five years some of the best in our lives instead of the worst!”

After his service in the Marine Corps, Kent was diagnosed with severe PTSD. When the single father of two faced difficult financial times, your support was key to our ability to help Kent remain engaged in treatment and moving forward.

“Semper Fi Fund has been there for me when I was at my lowest. It has put food in my kids’ mouths and a roof over their heads. Knowing Semper Fi Fund exists is like knowing I have a Quick Reaction Force in combat to back me up when the opposition gets too heavy to deal with. This organization is a big part of the reason I am alive today.”
Semper Fi Fund at a Glance Fiscal Year 2017

5,800 Heroes Impacted

$22,000,000 25,000
assistance provided grants delivered

2,300 first-time recipients

“I’ve been through a lot, but today — and in large part thanks to the Semper
Fi Fund — I feel empowered. I have hope, and I have something to look
forward to. That makes all the difference in the world.”

* Marine Corporal Lisa
As we reflect on another successful year, I am incredibly proud and honored to serve you and the Semper Fi Fund.

Now in our 14th year, our crucial mission “to always be there” to provide assistance to our service members and their families remains a constant and guides us on our path. That path — to provide resources, equipment and mentorship — is made possible by your generosity.

Your financial support and faithfulness in telling others about the work we do, makes a difference in the lives of thousands of service members and their families. For that and much more — thank you!

In this newsletter, you’ll read the stories of just a few of the lives changed — and saved — because of the people and programs of the Semper Fi Fund. Without your generous support, none of it would be possible.

I trust you are as proud of your association with the Semper Fi Fund as I am of mine. I remain…

Karen Guenther President, Executive Director and Founder

Semper Fidelis,

General James F. Amos
35th Commandant of the Marine Corps
Thank You
for Serving Those Who Preserve Our Freedom

$162,000,000
GIVEN IN ASSISTANCE TO SERVICE MEMBERS

85+ GRANTS PROCESSED
PER DAY

155,000
GRANTS TO SERVICE MEMBERS

20,000
WOUNDED HEROES
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Provided over:
average of 6%
overhead since inception

From CharityWatch & 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator
Semper Fi Fund Since 2004

Donations may be made online:
SemperFiFund.org/17NLF

Checks may be mailed to:
Semper Fi Fund
825 College Boulevard
Suite 102, PMB 609
Oceanside, CA 92057

Donate today and give a legacy for tomorrow. Please consider joining our Semper Fi Fund Legacy Society and continue to make a difference in the lives of our service members forever.

For any additional information, please email:
info@semperfifund.org

Semper Fi Fund
is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For donations, the Fund’s federal tax ID number is 26-0086305.