

# My friends,

Today, I'd like to share a few heartwarming testimonials from heroes who were deeply touched by your support. Their lives changed for the better. These are just a few messages from the thousands of lives we have impacted and uplifted thanks to your generosity and the generosity of our incredible Giving Tuesday partner, American Tire Distributors. With your continued support, we will expand our impact even further.



Your grateful American pal,





Double Amputee Veteran Jose Armenta

## “There Are No Words To Convey My Gratefulness”

We recently welcomed severely wounded veteran Jose Armenta into his brand new, mortgage-free home custom built by the Gary Sinise Foundation to his specific needs. He wanted to share his gratitude for your generosity.

“What do you say to the team giving you back some of the freedom you lost 12 years ago in Afghanistan? There are no words to convey my gratefulness that I can now cook for my kids without the help of Sergeant Major Mom. No words come to mind that would explain how much it means to me that I won't have to give a second thought to the question ‘Hey Dad can you come outside and play with us?’

Now in this home, I won't be delusional when I say ‘I have no barriers.’ Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world. The supporters of the Gary Sinise Foundation don't have that problem.”

-Jose



U.S. Army Veteran Jameia M.

## She Was Afraid To Ask For Help

U.S. Army Veteran Jameia M. was at the end of her rope dealing with unexpected financial hardship.

"I had been struggling for the last year and a half trying to get bills paid in full and other fees on top of what I had already paid. I felt so much guilt, shame, and embarrassment from the current circumstances in my life. I was afraid to ask for help because I didn't want to be judged."



MY CHILDREN AND  
I ARE GRATEFUL  
FOR YOUR  
DONATIONS. THANK  
YOU FOR BEING A  
BLESSING TO US.  
-JAMEIA M.

When Jameia was ready, we were honored to reach out a hand and support her through this difficult time with a grant.

"The grant allowed me to catch up on other bills. It has allowed me to restructure my budget to maintain my finances better. By me pushing past my own thoughts and feelings, I got the help my family and I needed. I am learning to ask for help and walk in my truth at the same time, one day at a time. I pray God bless all the donors with double portion of unexpected blessings. My children and I are grateful for your donations. Thank you for being a blessing to us."



A Powerful Thank You

## From A Family of the Fallen



My children lost their father, U.S. Army Specialist Grant Steward, in 2014. Since that tragic day, for nearly a decade, I've been evading and concealing my experiences. I've suppressed my thoughts and memories. I believed I could avoid reliving those painful moments. But the weight of the trauma and pain my children and I have shouldered has been substantial.

In February 2023, I attended a Gary Sinise Foundation workshop for Families of the Fallen. I wasn't aware how much I needed to express my story, but hearing others share their stories fostered a sense of connection and empowerment that I can not overstate. I have always fled from discomfort. The idea that I could derive such healing from leaning into discomfort was a revelation.

Using the skills I gained from the workshop, I discovered a wellspring of strength within me that I never knew existed. The growth I achieved also resonated with my children, spurring their interest in healing, too.



I also reconnected with several wives from Grant’s unit who have experienced their own forms of loss. Some of these connections had been dormant for almost two decades. I hope to offer solace to other women who’ve walked paths similar to mine by encouraging them to open up and share their stories.

It is impossible to find the right words to encapsulate the profound impact that the Gary Sinise Foundation has had on my family. Your inspirational and remarkable guidance has left an indelible mark on me.

I hold deep gratitude for your impact on my life.

-Esprit



**Remind our heroes that we never forget them.**

**DONATE TODAY**