

# My friends,

As I look back on 2023, the heroes we have helped, the lives we have changed, I have so much gratitude. Words can't express how thankful I am for our supporters, all of YOU, for joining me on this mission of service.



Below are just a few stories of ways we uplifted our nation's defenders and their families - those brave men and women who serve and sacrifice for our freedom. I can't wait to see all we accomplish together in the year ahead.

Your grateful American pal,





UPLIFTING THE REAL LT. DANS

## **A Look Back: Welcoming 90 Severely Wounded Heroes Into Their Forever Homes**

When tragedy falls, heroes rise. When our heroes face adversity, it is our honor to raise them up. This brief snapshot is just a few of the 90 extraordinary heroes we have welcomed to their new forever homes thanks to you.

After the devastating attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, thousands of heroes rose to defend our nation and our freedom. They did so out of a sense of duty and patriotism but never anticipated the severe injuries that would change the course of their lives forever. The number of hours and days these heroes spend in hospitals trying to heal and working with medical staff to relearn their own bodies is incalculable. Their lives, and their families' lives, forever changed.

And just when they feel they have reached a sense of accomplishment, finally released from their hospital room, these heroes discover a whole new set of challenges: navigating their own homes and daily lives.

The mortgage-free homes we build for these heroes are fully customized. From location and layout to finishing touches, our recipients choose all the elements that will make their house a home.

Thanks to you, our incredible supporters, we help our heroes rise.





MAKING AN EMT'S DREAM COME TRUE

## All He Wants To Do Is Help Save Lives

Jordan O. always wanted to help people. The calling he felt to serve his fellow man led him to a career in Emergency Medical Services.

**"As an EMT I love what I do," said Jordan. "I love helping out my community and I'm honored to be able to help someone on possibly one of the worst days of their lives."**

Though he hoped to continue his education to become a Paramedic, Jordan found he could not afford the classes. So when a local fire department offered a Paramedic course at a discounted price, he jumped at the opportunity. But even at half the cost, Jordan's dream was still out of reach.

That's when Jordan turned to us for help. With your support, we were able to cover the full cost of tuition for Jordan to become a Paramedic.

**"Words cannot adequately express just how much this means to me, but I can promise I will try my absolute hardest in school and I won't let you down. I'll remember this always, and WHEN I pass the course and become a Paramedic, it will be all because you gave me a chance!"**





UPLIFTING OUR FAMILIES OF FALLEN

## Surprising The Surviving Spouses Of Our Fallen Heroes

For most of us, the holiday season is full of wonder and cheer, laughter and joy. For our families of our fallen heroes, it's often shrouded with a veil of grief, knowing their loved one cannot celebrate with them. For these parents, going the extra mile for their surviving children is especially important, creating the spirit of joy and happiness as though it all happens by magic.

The feeling of loneliness can be overwhelming.

Thanks to your incredible support, we came up with a plan alongside our wonderful partner, Amazon. For all they have sacrificed, this holiday season, we surprised these special surviving spouses and guardians for Christmas.

At our recent Snowball Express Annual Event, our friends at Amazon stepped in to help make the season just a little brighter by providing a "Santazon" store! Staffed by Amazon volunteers, the children of fallen heroes were invited to choose a special secret gift for their surviving parent/guardian. They donned their Amazon vest, wrapped and packed each gift themselves, and then shipped their package of love courtesy of Amazon.

By Christmas morning, a special surprise waited for their mom or dad. It was a simple reminder they are never forgotten.

We send our sincerest thanks to Amazon, our presenting sponsor American Airlines, and all of you for helping us bring joy to our Families of Fallen!



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

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