

My friends,

Words cannot express how grateful I am for all of you, for all of your thoughts and prayers during this incredibly difficult time for me and my family. As parents, it is so difficult losing a child. Your outpouring of love and support has helped us in a profound way.



To everyone who wrote in to the Gary Sinise Foundation, or to me, and sent us well wishes, donated on behalf of Mac, I can't thank you enough. You have no idea how much it meant to my family.

Thank you. God bless you all.

Your grateful American pal,





Thanks to your generosity, the Gary Sinise Foundation serves our nation's heroes and their families all across the country every single day. Here are a few highlights.





WELCOMING HOME A SEVERELY WOUNDED HERO

Our 90th Mortgage-Free, Fully Customized Home

On March 7, 2001, Patrick Scrogin wasn't expected to live. On January 18, 2024, he walked through the door of our 90th mortgage-free, fully customized home.

Patrick was on his second deployment overseas when the helicopter he was flying began hurtling toward the earth. Though his quick maneuvering saved his life and the life of his co-pilot, as a result of the crash, Patrick died twice on the way to the hospital, sustained nine fractured vertebrae, and lost his left leg above the knee.



Though his injuries were severe, Patrick credits his children for his perseverance. **“You motivated me,”** said Patrick. **“You motivated me to get out of that bed and to do everything I could possibly do to make your life, my life, and everybody’s life better around me.”**

At his home dedication, where the community gathered to thank him for his service and sacrifice, Patrick was overwhelmed with gratitude.



“You know that saying *heroes don’t always wear capes*, well, patriots don’t always wear uniforms. Everybody in this room is a patriot. And I really thank you. This embodies what I went and fought for. I would have given my life. I would tomorrow. Because I love this country.”

The homes we build for recipients like Patrick help restore their independence and accessibility, so they can enjoy the simple routines of daily life. It’s all made possible by *you*, our incredible supporters.

“I’m honored to be the 90th recipient of a home. There’s going to be many memories made on this property. But the thing that I’m most grateful for is that I know if something happens to me tomorrow, my family’s taken care of. To everybody that was involved, thank you from the absolute depths of my heart.”





A POLICE OFFICER IN NEED OF HELP

In Her Darkest Hour, You Gave Her Hope

Through our H.O.P.E. initiative, the Foundation has been honored to support Sgt. Meredith Absalon, a police officer who has served 15 years in the Manchester Police Department. Meredith was diagnosed with breast cancer in early 2023. As a single mother of two, despite enduring treatments, she has remained on the force. The H.O.P.E. grants made possible through your generosity are easing her daily life, so she can focus on her family and winning her battle with cancer.

At her small police department located just outside St. Louis, the Foundation also hosted an appreciation meal in Meredith's honor to feed her fellow officers who have taken on extra shifts for her, fundraised in her name, and supported her like family. Inspired by her courage and grit, the Chief of Police shared his deep appreciation for Meredith and to the Foundation for showing up in such a meaningful way. Offering gratitude to selfless officers like Meredith is one of the reasons Gary created the Foundation. She is the epitome of the dedication and perseverance that is intrinsic to so many of America's First Responders.





FORMING UNBREAKABLE BONDS

A Chance Encounter Leads to a Lifetime of Friendship

Ashli Bell and Denelle Mitchell had a brief encounter while honoring their late husbands at a fallen firefighter memorial in Colorado. Their sons, Tyson and Aiden, played together as the two women sat quietly grieving the loss of their heroes. Though the families enjoyed their time together, in their grief, they forgot to exchange information and thought their connection lost forever.

Over a year later, on the other side of the country in Florida, a miracle occurred. On the welcoming night of our first ever Snowball Express annual event for First Responders, Tyson recognized Aiden and shouted, “There’s my friend!” Ashli quieted her son, saying, “We don’t know anyone here.” But Tyson insisted and dashed towards Aiden. He was right. It was his friend. And the two families became inseparable for the entire event, forming a lifelong friendship and bond—a bond that only they can understand—and it was all made possible by you.





UPLIFTING OUR FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES

Healing Together, Holding Each Other Close

We recently hosted our Families of Fallen Military & First Responders on the slopes of Park City, Utah for some winter sports fun. Alongside the National Ability Center (NAC) we gave our families with special needs children the opportunity to experience snow shoeing, skiing, rock climbing, and more. We're bringing these families together to heal in the comfort of one another's company, in a safe space for them to connect and share their stories.

Adding to the magic, we also flew volunteer veterans and first responders to train with the NAC, providing these heroes with a whole new way to give back to their communities.



Remind our heroes that we never forget them.

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