

# Newsletter Volume VI



Who will keep the promise?  
**We will!**



**ROSALIE & LOUIS SHEPARD  
AT WILLOW CREEK**



## FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Community and Friends,

On behalf of the Word of Honor Fund team, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your enduring commitment to supporting the Gold Star and Surviving Children of Naval Special Operations.

Our grass-roots organization gathered to address a fundamental support gap within our community. Since its inception in 2012, Word of Honor Fund has strived to provide the highest level of support directly to the children of our fallen teammates.

Children's mentors provide critical and often missing pieces of their father's legacy. It is our mission to ensure their linkages and bonds remain strong and intact. Each Stone event we create lays the foundation for their development and reinforces the integrity of our solemn commitment to each other.

Our hope is this newsletter provides you a glimpse into our most recent activities. We could not have achieved our mission without your support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Louis W. Shepard  
President, Founder





## JUNE 2018—JUNE 2019 EVENTS

### CAPSTONE (3)

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#### **AUGUST 7-19, 2018 – ROCK CLIMBING - KRABI, THAILAND**

A Gold Star child completed her fifth and final event with WoHF by ascending world-class peaks in Thailand. With consistent mentorship, she achieved her father's wishes for her to always seek adventure.

#### **JANUARY 1-11, 2019 – FLY FISHING - PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA**

A Gold Star child and his mentor enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience fly fishing in the legendary waters of the Patagonia mountain range. The pair embarked on the daring journey in the truest spirit of the young man's father.

#### **MARCH 2-13, 2019 – DIVING & MACHU PICCHU HIKE GALAPAGOS, ECUADOR/PERU (COVER IMAGE)**

By scuba diving off the coast of the enchanted Galapagos Islands and embarking on a hike to the breathtaking Machu Picchu peak, a child and his mentor exceeded his father's wishes to seek experiences beyond his imagination.



## **JUNE 2018—JUNE 2019 EVENTS CONT.**

### **MILESTONE (3)**

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#### **JANUARY 29, 2019 – DELIVER DAD’S TRUCK, ID**

Keeping the promise to his fallen teammate, a mentor delivered an antique truck owned by the father to an eager Gold Star child living in Idaho. The young boy beamed with excitement as he inspected every detail of the truck that was once his father’s.

#### **FEBRUARY 3, 2019 – SUPER BOWL 53 - ATLANTA, GA**

A Gold Star child and his older brother, who aged out and became his mentor, embarked on an incredible experience to see their father’s favorite team, the Patriots, in Super Bowl 53.

#### **JANUARY 12, 2019 – CHIEFS PLAYOFF GAME – KANSAS CITY, MO**

Three ecstatic Gold Star children and their mentors cheered on their favorite NFL team at an exhilarating AFC Divisional playoff game.

### **CORNERSTONE (5)**

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#### **JANUARY 27, 2018 – VETS HOUSE**

To initiate their servant leadership traits and give back to the community, nine children and four mentors presented gifts and served Christmas dinner to approximately 25 homeless Veterans in the local area.



## **DECEMBER 16, 2018 – WINTER WRAP**

Gold Star children and their mentors took to the mall to buy a Christmas gift for mom, a gift for a local homeless Veteran, and took pictures with Santa—time well spent filled with families and holiday spirit.

## **NOVEMBER 9-12, 2018 – BRUNO MARS/JURASSIC PARK HONOLULU, HI**

A Gold Star family and their mentors got to see a local music legend perform live in his hometown. They reinforced the native values of family and love - values cherished by the children's father.

## **SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 – PAMPER THE PRINCESS VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

Two Gold Star children danced the night away in their beautiful dresses and tiaras. WoHF partnered with one of the Gold Star moms to do makeup and provide decadent chocolate goodie bags for the princesses before they were whisked away by their mentors for a magical ball.



## **JULY 28-29, 2018 – CAMPING SANDBRIDGE**

A returning mentor took younger siblings camping to teach them the true meaning of fortitude and determination - two attributes their father exemplified.

## **LOCAL CORNERSTONE (5)** \_\_\_\_\_

## **JULY 25, 2018 – GO-KARTING**

A Gold Star family and their mentors zoomed around a course on high speed go-karts, full of bumping and laughter, in the same way their father once enjoyed.



## **JULY 26, 2018 – VB EXCURSION – ADVENTURE PARK**

A Gold Star family and their mentor flew through the sky on rope swings and tested their climbing skills on difficult obstacle courses. This cultivated a sense of adventure and excitement for the kids and their mentors.

## **JULY 28, 2018 – BUSCH GARDENS – WILLIAMSBURG, VA**

Three Gold Star kids and their mentors spent an exhilarating day at a local amusement park riding the towering roller coasters, enjoying the many spectacular old country delights and rides.

## **AUGUST 16, 2018 – DAY AT THE MOVIES**

A dedicated mentor and three Gold Star kids enjoyed a day at the movies with popcorn, snacks, and an action-packed film. It was a simple but special day.

## **DECEMBER 22, 2018 – ADVENTURE PARK – VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

Three Gold Star siblings and their mentor took to the legendary rope course in Virginia Beach to challenge their hunger for climbing and the jungle, both passions they shared with their father.

## **QUARTERLY/LIFE EVENTS CORNERSTONE (1)** \_\_\_\_\_

### **AUGUST 25, 2018 –SELF DEFENSE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

Four Gold Star families and their mentors built self-confidence and self-defense skills as the kids enter the new school year, incorporating some anti-bullying techniques and survival skills, traits upheld strongly by their fathers.



## **SUPPORTING WoHF (5)** \_\_\_\_\_

### **MARCH 15, 2018 – GENTEX CORP./RED DEVILS SKYDIVING TEAM SAN DIEGO, CA**

GenTex/Ops Core donated a helmet for last year's Willow Creek Auction. This same helmet was designed for and used in the movie Zero Dark Thirty. One Gold Star child met The Red Devils from Britain for a tandem skydive at the same location her father had trained.



## **JUNE 23, 2018 – GATHERING AT WILLOW CREEK, ID**

A fun-filled weekend of mountain air and patriotism, all in the name of the Word of Honor Fund.

## **OCTOBER 28, 2018 – TEAM RED4 - TRIATHLON IN TX**

Racing 4 Everyone Deployed is dedicated to support WoHF. As a Retired Navy SEAL with a team of triathletes, Art Del Rio selflessly continues to give back to his brothers. He finished at an impressive time while sporting a WoHF tattoo and embroidered logo on his racing suit.

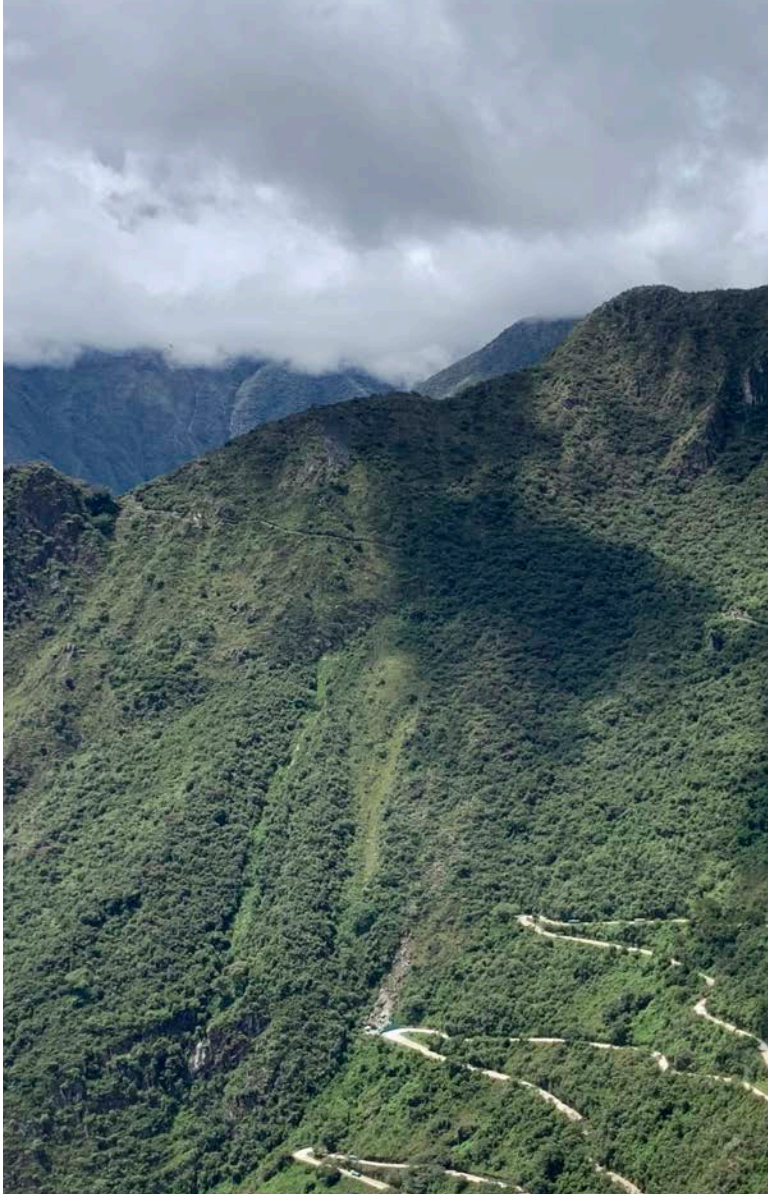
## **NOVEMBER 12, 2018 – GOLF CLASSIC - CHESAPEAKE, VA**

Community golfers tried their hand at the challenging 18-hole course at the Greenbrier Country Club. To begin the shot-gun start, a Gold Star child sang the National Anthem. Her angelic voice reminded us all why we gathered on that Veterans' Day.

## **DECEMBER 2, 2018 – DETROIT LIONS – MY CLEATS MY CAUSE DETROIT, MI**

Detroit Lions Coach, Matt Patricia, chose WoHF as his cause during a three-week period in which NFL athletes demonstrated their support for local charities.





**DONOR RELATIONS    FAMILY SUPPORT**

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