

MISSOURI FRIENDS OF INJURED MARINES

GEN. JAMES T. CONWAY GOLF OUTING

7th Annual

**Sunday, August 28, 2011
The Country Club at the Legends**

Proceeds to benefit the



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund

Serving Those Who Preserve Our Freedom

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THE FUND

On May 18, 2004, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund was established by a nurse who worked with injured Marines and sailors at the Camp Pendleton Hospital in California. The nurse's husband was deployed in Iraq at the time. She brought together a small group of concerned Marine Corps spouses to provide financial grants and needed equipment to injured Marines and other service members injured while assigned to Marine forces. Since its inception, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund has provided more than \$44 million dollars in assistance to over 3,000 service members. The Fund has been featured on 60 Minutes, CBS News, NBC Nightly News, CNN, The Chris Mathews Show, Fox News and National Public Radio. Additionally, numerous other journalists have conducted interviews of injured Marines and sailors, who expressed their gratitude for the support that they had received from the Fund.

THE NEED

Our Marines and sailors return home after being stabilized at military hospitals in Germany. Upon arrival, critical care is provided at the National Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Depending on the severity of the injuries, continued hospitalization occurs at other hospitals located throughout America. Hospitals stays can extend for months and rehabilitative care for years.

When a Marine is injured, the entire family shares the burden of recovery. A young married Marine with a wife and two small children may at first require the support of his spouse. Eventually, the Marine's spouse must return home to care for the children and parents may step in to provide comfort to the injured Marine. As time passes, Mom and Dad may need to return to work and a sibling may arrive until a spouse can return again.

THE CRISIS

Loved ones travel great distances at a moment's notice to be at the bedside of their wounded family member. Family members take leave from their jobs, often without pay. They also incur additional expenses - lodging, travel, food - while trying to meet obligations at home. It can become difficult for families to make ends meet while helping their Marine recover. Few are prepared for the expense.

The Marine Corps goes above and beyond to support Marines and their families but there are limits to the amount of funding available to accommodate the families of injured Marines. The Marine Corps can only provide assistance to family members for a limited period of time. Defense Department funding is not available to extended family members or for the reimbursement of expenses for rental cars, long-term childcare, or lost income.

THEIR MISSION

The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund helps Marines, sailors, and their families meet their financial needs during difficult times. The Fund works closely with the Marine Corps, the Navy, and the hospitals nationwide to identify and assess the needs of specific families.



Being raised in a brood of six can create a little competition between siblings. As an athlete at Seckman High School in Arnold, Missouri, this would give Todd Nicely his competitive drive. He played defensive end in football and ran track. But sports were not Todd's only passion; he loved war movies, new and old. He wanted so much to join the Marine Corps, to be a part of the camaraderie that exists between fellow Marines; and at 23 years old, he did, and he loved it. He had found his calling.

Todd was stationed at Camp Lejeune; and it is there that he met Crystal Sutton, a fellow Marine. Todd was smitten with Crystal and the two were married in 2009.

As a lance corporal, he served a tour in Iraq, and later, it was his tour as a corporal in Afghanistan that would render him a "Wounded Warrior".

After being stabilized, he was flown to the National Naval Medical Center, near Washington, D.C., where he spent several days in ICU. At 26 years old, Todd was told that he was the second American quadruple amputee to survive his injuries. He lost both his legs at the knee, his right arm above the elbow and left hand above the wrist. He also suffered a fractured jaw and collapsed lung. Despite the devastating news, Todd's first concern was his squad. He wanted to know that they were all ok, and he was assured that, in fact, they were.

It's the determination, competitive drive and the love of his wife and family that keeps this Marine persisting. Todd is currently undergoing extensive physical therapy at Walter Reed Hospital. Every day, he is learning to do more with his prosthetics; from using ChapStick, to fastening his seatbelt, to baking a birthday cake for his wife. Just three months post injury, he began walking. Last September we watched him kick a kickball. In December, he skied in Colorado and today he is working on his golf swing. "I do feel lucky," says Nicely. "I could be one of the casualties but instead I'm going to be a normal functioning human here."

Cpl. Nicely takes his pride in his duty as a squad leader. He diligently checks in on his men of Unit 2/2, Fox Company. Some have returned to their hometowns, some have begun a new tour; all are our heroes.

“TOURNAMENT SPONSORS”



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