



# HOMEFRONT

HONOR THE SERVICE... REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE

2020-2021



How challenges, fear and COVID were overcome  
by love of service and country.  
**ONE SAILOR'S JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY.**

[www.saluteinc.org](http://www.saluteinc.org)

# ONE SAILOR'S JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY.

**“There is still humanity out there.”** It is a simple but strong statement. Much like the man who made it. Navy Chief Petty Officer Nick shared that thought when talking about his dealings with SALUTE, INC.

**“For veterans who are battered, who have been injured, working with SALUTE changes your perception and your outlook on humanity,”** Nick said. For Nick and his family, that meant a lot during a difficult period in their lives.

Nick's story begins, and hopefully, ends with his commitment to serving in the U.S. Navy. As a young man he tried a number of jobs, made a nice living but “didn't feel good.” A native of Texas, he came from a family with members who served in the military and ultimately knew that the military gave him “a chance to do something positive.” Today, Nick is waiting for the response from a Medical Review Board to green-light his return to service after a long recovery from a serious injury.

As with many families in the military, Nick, his wife Erica and their young daughter Kiyomi, were frequently on the move. He was stationed in San Diego before changing climates for an assignment in Green Bay. It was while stationed there that Nick was out training on his own, hiking and climbing, when he fell 15 feet, landing on his tailbone and compressing his spine. His injuries were painful but not debilitating. He ultimately had surgery which did not offer the expected relief before doctors recommended injections to

his spine to ease his pain. The second instance damaged nerves rendering him paralyzed. There began a long journey of challenges, fear and uncertainty.

His road to healing led Nick and family to the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago. Six arduous months brought hope, and through the work of “an amazing staff”, Nick slowly reclaimed use of his legs and began to walk again. Like many of us, the coronavirus pandemic added yet another obstacle to Nick's recovery, but he took the periodic interruptions of his therapy in stride. In fact, because he and his family were so focused on his recovery, it wasn't until later in his journey that they came to realize the broad impact the virus was having on society across the country. As someone who has trained with expeditionary command and other special units, relying on his focus, strength, determination and taking problems on directly is the only way Nick knows to operate and a pandemic would simply be another challenge to overcome.

As with any military member, Nick accepted what came his way during the process, but he found it far more difficult to see the impact his situation had on his wife and daughter. “They were away from home, my wife lost her job and my daughter had to see me bedridden, often incoherent due to medication. I believe what they experienced was worse than what I was going through.”

Erica's decision to stay by her husband's side led to loss of her job. The family was on its own to cover the cost of a place for her and Kiyomi to live while Nick was at Shirley Ryan, along with daily necessities like gas, utilities and food. And then, a connection was made with SALUTE.

**“SALUTE was there for everything,”** Nick said without hesitation. **“They helped financially but the emotional and spiritual support was even greater. SALUTE offered my wife support at all times.”**

Nick is quick to name SALUTE volunteers like Dan and Rick, as well as Mary Beth and Will Beiersdorf, noting the frequency of their calls and visits.



He remembers that much of his stay at Shirley Ryan was over Thanksgiving and Christmas, yet the SALUTE volunteers “made my daughter’s Christmas.”

The gift Nick received was not only the use of his legs but his new view on life. **“Having to ask for help is not easy for someone who has trained in the military,”** Nick said. **“Knowing what resources are out there has opened my mind to what I can do to help other veterans.”** He wants others in the military to know it’s OK to ask for help, noting that being on the receiving end **“empowers you to help others.”**

We know that Nick will be there any time a member of the military or their family reaches out; and he knows SALUTE will be right behind him. **“SALUTE changes lives, pure and simple.”**

One thing that won’t change is Nick’s desire to serve. As he awaits the response from the Review Board regarding his ability to return to the Navy, he is making it a priority to show that he is mentally and physically fit to return to the career he loves. We expect that Nick and his family will land on their feet, and when they do, others will benefit.

To all of you who help SALUTE help families like Nick’s, we, and they, say thank you. There’s still room for a little humanity out there and it’s great to have Nick and family help us share that message.



*Dear Friends,*

I can’t think of a more important time in the history of SALUTE to emphasize “WHY” SALUTE is so necessary and essential in the lives of our military families.

As you read through the story of officer Nick and his family, let it be a reminder that it would not be possible without your financial support and compassion for others.

While we may have lost a significant amount of revenue from our fundraising events being cancelled due to the pandemic, we have renewed confidence and optimism to carry on because of the generosity of our supporters. **“THE CAUSE HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED”!** We stand ready and prepared to respond to the needs of families facing serious challenges – especially in these uncertain times.

We continue to be forever GRATEFUL to our volunteers, staff, and dedicated supporters. We NEED your commitment for the FUTURE as you will always have ours . . . Honor the Service . . . Remember the Sacrifice.

With sincere gratitude,  
*Will and Mary Beth*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Marc Gallant</b> , <i>President</i>	<b>Dan Capozzi</b>
<b>Curt Matlin</b> , <i>Vice President</i>	<b>Kirk Havens</b>
<b>Griffin Knight</b> , <i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Tom Hoskinson</b>
<b>William Borst III</b> , <i>Secretary</i>	<b>Cara Lindell</b>
<b>Mary Beth Beiersdorf</b> , <i>Executive Director</i>	<b>Bill Luehrs</b>
<b>Joy Adams</b> , <i>Development Director</i>	<b>Nancy McIlvaine</b>
	<b>Peter Monahan</b>
	<b>Scott Skinger</b>

## ASSOCIATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Jay Fabian</b> , <i>President</i>	<b>Jake Lavin</b>
<b>Matt Nemshick</b> , <i>Vice President</i>	<b>Garrett Luehrs</b>
<b>Mike Terranova</b> , <i>Co-Founder</i>	<b>Chris Neidhart</b>
<b>Kellen Monti</b> , <i>Co-Founder</i>	<b>Colton Riemenschneider</b>
<b>Grant Keller</b>	<b>Emily Tan</b>
<b>Sara Kelm</b>	

# UNIQUELY Giving

## Gary Menzel



**Gary Menzel, President of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local 11 Union** has been a faithful friend of SALUTE for many years now. At Gary's invitation, SALUTE is a benefitting charity for the Roofers annual golf outing. Participation in the golf outing has led to donations from the union and its members in excess of \$10,000 each year.

It all started at another union's golf outing – the Plumbing Industries Golf Association outing, to be specific. Gary had been invited to the Plumbers outing and was lucky enough to win the 50/50 raffle. SALUTE was at the event as the featured charity of the plumbers. Gary handed back his winnings to SALUTE and said, **“I have a golf outing too.”**

That was the beginning of a wonderful relationship with Gary and the Roofers Union. In addition to their annual donation to SALUTE programs, the union also “adopts” several families for the holidays, easing the financial stress of the holidays by mailing gifts for the veterans' children. Loyal union member, avid Cubs fan, and proud grandfather of three, we salute Gary for his dedication to military members, veterans and their families.

## The Matlin Family



It's challenging to list all the ways **Curt Matlin and his wife Elizabeth** have supported SALUTE. Since first learning about SALUTE at a 2007 race, Curt has gone above and beyond: requesting donations to SALUTE in lieu of holiday gifts, applying for grants from his professional association, fundraising personally through race participation and serving on our Board of Directors since 2012. During his time on the Board, Curt also spearheaded the development of the SALUTE Legacy Giving program and other planned giving options.

Each year, Curt sponsors multiple foursomes at the annual SALUTE/Timesavers Golf outing. One of Curt's golfing friends is Marine veteran Glen Hampton, who in an amazing coincidence won the 50/50 raffle at our golf outing two years in a row. Glen generously donated the entire 50/50 raffle amount to SALUTE – both times that he won!



Curt has said: **“I'm not a veteran, but I benefit from living in a country that owes a debt of gratitude to our service men and women.”**

We all benefit from the service and sacrifices of our military, and we appreciate all that Curt has done to sustain our veteran assistance programs. We invite you to consider how you can help too. No voluntary deed, introduction or contribution is too small.

## SALUTE Legacy Giving

**SALUTE Legacy Giving** donors are a group of dedicated individuals who have made or pledged a gift to SALUTE, INC. through their wills, trusts, bequests or insurance policy. Your legacy gift ensures that future veterans will be provided with everyday essentials as they navigate the transition between active duty and civilian life. A complete description of the Legacy Giving program, and other planned giving is available at [www.saluteinc.org/donate/](http://www.saluteinc.org/donate/). More than a legal document, your estate plan is a testament to your life's work, your values and your beliefs. SALUTE, INC. would be honored to be remembered as part of your legacy.

## Matt Nemshick



The SALUTE Associate Board (SAB) was started in 2014 when a group of young professionals in Chicago decided to team up to support our veteran programs. Continually advocating and fundraising on our behalf, the Associate Board's main event is an annual bar fundraiser in Chicago. Gathering friends and colleagues for a night honoring and supporting injured veterans, the Board has raised over \$250,000 for SALUTE.

**Matt Nemshick** was one of the early members of the SALUTE Associate Board and is currently serving as Board Vice President. Matt was introduced to SALUTE when SAB co-founder Kellen Monti invited him to the inaugural fundraiser. Inspired to assist veterans by his grandfather who served during the WWII era, Matt chose to put his time and energy into SALUTE, INC. and joined the board. Along with organizing the annual (SAB) fundraiser, Matt introduced SALUTE to the International Facility Management Association – Chicago Chapter, leading to our selection as their charity partner for the next two years.

But Matt didn't stop there: on 9/19/19, Matt got his first ever hole-in-one at a corporate golf outing and donated the \$15,000 winnings to SALUTE! We are in awe of such great generosity. Matt reminisced about that day recalling **"It was a really amazing experience and I couldn't be happier to donate the proceeds to SALUTE."**

*Thank you, Matt, and we couldn't be happier to have you on our team.*

## Teresa Backes



A few years ago, a friend invited **Teresa Backes** to a SALUTE fundraiser. Impressed by SALUTE's mission, Teresa, an administrative assistant at PPM America, initiated several campaigns with her co-workers. Going beyond encouraging participation and volunteering at SALUTE events, she also brought a team of co-workers to serve with SALUTE at the Jessie Brown VA Medical Center food pantry in Chicago. Later, she organized a company-wide donation campaign in honor of Memorial Day. Donations from PPM America employees and the company match to those donations have exceeded \$10,900!

**"She consistently inspires others to be more involved with service events and opportunities,"** said Rylee Murray, Corporate Philanthropy Manager for Jackson and PPM America.

Teresa's passion for community and commitment to raising awareness and funds for those most vulnerable is evident in her actions. *Thank you, Teresa, for supporting SALUTE, INC.!*

# CHANGING COURSE for SALUTE

## Because the Cause has NOT been Cancelled!

Unsurprisingly, 2020 has been a very challenging year for SALUTE's charity runners. Despite event rescheduling and race cancellations they found a way to get it done. Ultimately, over 60,000 hard earned \$\$ were raised by these determined charity athletes.

### Still Running Strong



Prior to COVID-19 being a factor, TEAM SALUTE was well represented by 3 teams of 4 who completed the **Pettit Indoor Marathon Relay** in Milwaukee.



The "Running Without a Finish Line" campaign replaced SALUTE's Annual 5K traditionally run through the hometown streets of Arlington Heights, IL over Memorial Day weekend. The campaign was a huge success. Over **\$7000** was donated by many faithful supporters some of whom decided to run the course on their own.

Historically, the Bank of America Chicago Marathon has been SALUTE's biggest fundraiser of the year. However due to the pandemic, the 2020 Chicago Marathon, originally scheduled for Oct. 11th was cancelled. Despite that, many of our 100 team members chose to continue their fundraising efforts and run the marathon or half marathon distance virtually in their own neighborhoods. **Adam Thomas**, a 6-year veteran of TEAM SALUTE really outdid himself. He actually ran two virtual marathons, set a post-injury PR and was our top fundraiser exceeding his individual goal by raising over **\$2800**.



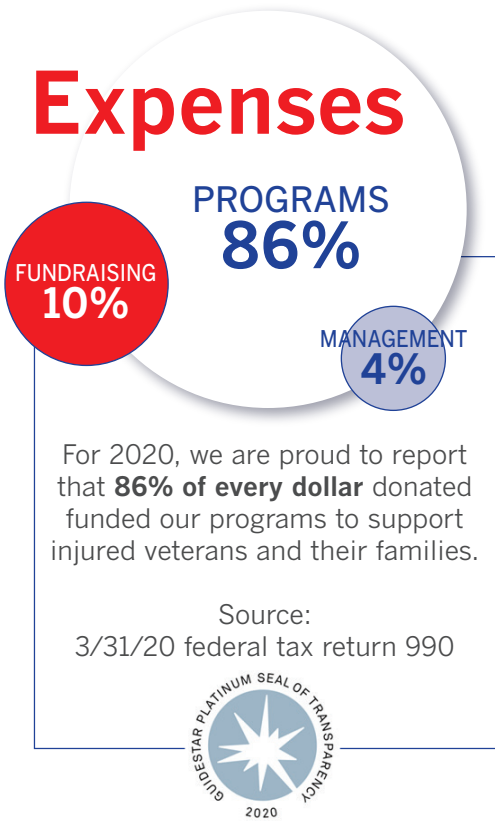
*Thank you ALL!*



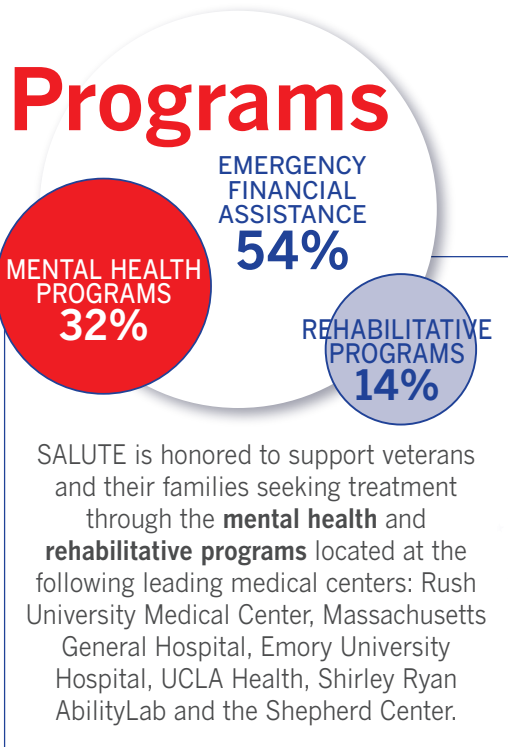
# FINANCIALS

SALUTE, INC. is committed to outstanding stewardship and complete transparency regarding our finances. Through diligent management of the donations and grants we receive, we direct every possible dollar toward achieving our mission of providing financial assistance to bridge the temporary income gaps and meet the basic needs of post 9/11 veterans. Since our inception, we have provided over \$5 million in direct aid to veterans and their families in time of need. We welcome your assistance in helping us further our mission.

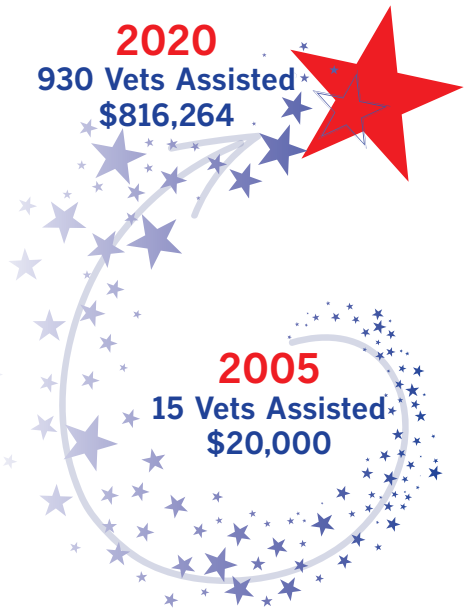
## Expenses



## Programs



## Assistance Provided



### Other ways to SUPPORT SALUTE



Double the Donation  
matching gifts made easy



ROUNDUP APP

All donation options are available at [www.saluteinc.org/donate/](http://www.saluteinc.org/donate/)

SALUTE, INC. is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Complete financial statements and tax returns are available at [www.saluteinc.org](http://www.saluteinc.org).

## OUR MISSION

SALUTE, INC. is dedicated to meeting the financial, physical and emotional needs of injured military service members, veterans and their families.



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PALATINE, IL P & DC  
PERMIT NO. 7133

PO BOX 2663 Palatine, IL 60078-2663

## 2021 SAVE THE DATES

<b>FEB. 27</b>	SALUTE, INC. Virtual Fundraising Party
<b>MAY</b>	SALUTE, INC. 5K tbd
<b>JUNE 3</b>	Associate Board Old Post Office Event
<b>JULY 19</b>	SALUTE, INC./PHGA Golf Fundraiser
<b>OCT. 10</b>	Bank of America Chicago Marathon

Cover photo: Wayne Slezak  
Design: In.cite Studio  
Editorial Assistance: Mitchell Marketing Management  
Printing: Arlington Press

[www.saluteinc.org](http://www.saluteinc.org)

EMAIL: [info@saluteinc.org](mailto:info@saluteinc.org)

2020-2021 NEWSLETTER

# GRATEFUL FOR OUR SPONSORS

