



HONORING the SERVICE REMEMBERING the SACRIFICE



REMEMBERING
David P. Henderson
ARMY



saluteinc.org



HONORING
Rudy Brieschenk
ARMY AIRBORNE



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HONORING
Dustin Hawk
ARMY



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Dear Friends,
 This year, more than ever, we are overwhelmingly grateful for you—our dedicated community of supporters. Every **dollar** donated, every **mile** run ,every **hour** of **volunteer time** spent and every **word** of encouragement shared, makes SALUTE a better and stronger organization .

Your commitment of support is the **HOPE** and the **REMINDER** that Service and Sacrifice will never be forgotten. Together we are rebuilding and reconnecting lives with dignity and promise.

Mary Beth and Will Beiersdorf

MB and Will

RYAN and LIANA



Sergeant Ryan was just thirty-four years old, living his life with his beautiful wife, Liana, two children and one more on the way. He loved parachuting, a skill he had mastered during his 11 years in the **Army National Guard of Florida, 3/20th Special Forces Group (Airborne)**. During a training exercise in 2020, Ryan

suffered a serious head injury. Although the injury was not outwardly apparent, Ryan was subsequently diagnosed with a Traumatic Brain Injury. Additionally, the head injury triggered a genetic mutation for early onset Alzheimer’s disease.

Life changed dramatically for Ryan and his family after the injury. Liana left her job to care for him and their children full time. Looking for additional support, they sold their home in Florida and moved to Illinois to be closer to family. Ryan’s symptoms quickly progressed, making it impossible for him to be cared for in the family home. He is now living in a residential memory care village.

Through the enormous challenges for their family, Liana has steadily taken on all the responsibilities she once shared with Ryan. Childcare, pursuing proper care for Ryan and the move across the country is all on her shoulders. For more than two years, Liana fought for the appropriate service connection for Ryan. Once in Illinois, she contacted SALUTE for additional resources. SALUTE responded with assistance for three apartment rental payments, weekend healthcare services and referrals for pro bono help with finances and taxes. Local students sending letters of love and encouragement to Ryan, as well as visits to Ryan added emotional support for the family.



Liana has been open about the struggles they have faced:

“Every season has brought new challenges . . . My biggest ongoing challenge has been building a stable support system while trying to cover the emotional, financial and physical demands of caregiving and parenting. It’s a lot and it’s relentless.”



DID YOU KNOW?

"SALUTE didn't just provide assistance they provided much needed HOPE."



JL's PIZZA

generously collects change every month. The "dough" is used to pay for everyday essentials like utility bills.



In just a couple hours, **Allstate** volunteers led by SALUTE board member **Bill Borst** and **Great Lakes Naval Station** were able to distribute food to 358 Veteran and Military family members.

An investment in a **robotic lawnmower** gave this injured Veteran **HOPE** and the ability to "get back to basics."



New Trier High School Senior Class 2025

adopted SALUTE, INC. and Midwest Veterans Closet for the entire school year. Collaborating with one goal in mind, *"To impact the lives and families of those heroes who serve(d) our Country with Dignity and Respect."*



We are blessed to have seven volunteer case managers who collectively gave over 2,000 hours of their time this year.



Over the last 10 years the **Chicago Roofers Union** literally put "roofs over heads", kept the lights on in many households and made Christmas dreams come true for countless military families, donating over \$200K by hitting a little white ball.



Every marathon runner has individual goals but it's our common purpose that makes us a truly impactful team.



Set a Goal; Do the Work; Everybody Wins!



Sue Hussey and Allison Titre, Co-Team Salute Coordinators plan year round for the big event.



Salute Co-Founders, Will and Mary Beth Beiersdorf have retired from marathoning. Now their son Chris is running for Team Salute and recruiting his fellow firefighters to join up too.



It's About Family!

"Many of you know I began running for SALUTE, INC. after losing my big brother Dave, an Army veteran, in February 2024. What started as a way to honor his memory has become a mission to continue his legacy of compassion and service.

Last year, I completed the Chicago Marathon for Dave, this time injury-free and with a full heart. I am running again to celebrate healing, hope, and the incredible impact SALUTE, INC. has had, not only for veterans across the country but for my own family as well. Every dollar we raise supports heroes like my brother, men and women who have sacrificed so much through their service."

-Jessica Belmonte

Fr. John Eustice, a 6X Team Salute Chicago Marathoner is our chaplain. He sends us off on race morning with a group prayer for strength, safety and mercy for those veterans that are struggling.



Meet our longest tenured charity marathon runner, Thomas Ngo. He's run Chicago 15 years for Team Salute.

Scott & Kristin The couple that trains and fund-raises together, stays together!



Even the fast ones need support. Thanks mom & dad Schreiber, for supporting Kevin by spectating, contributing donations and volunteering on race day.



FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

\$965,000

IN TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

supported over

1,700

MILITARY AND
FAMILY MEMBERS

85%

OF EXPENSES GO TO
OUR PROGRAMS



charity runners raised over

\$300K



Four-star rating from
Charity Navigator, the
highest rating, based on
our accountability,
transparency, and
financial health.

\$665,000

IN RENT & MORTGAGE PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTED

There are so many other ways to donate and make a difference:

- Planned Giving
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution
- Donate Stock and Securities
- **DONATE NOW**



OUR MISSION

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

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

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.



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2026 SAVE THE DATES

FEB. 28	SALUTE, INC. Annual Fundraising Party
MAY 23	SALUTE, INC. Honor and Remember Event
JULY 13	SALUTE, INC./PHGA GOLF FUNDRAISER
OCT. 11	Bank of America Chicago Marathon
NOV. TBD	Associate Board Fundraiser

Marketing: Mitchell Consulting Group

Design: In.cite Studio

Printing: Arlington Press

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2025-2026 NEWSLETTER

Our Partners

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



**VETERAN
AND FAMILY CARE**



Shepherd Center

Neuro
Community Care



JESSE BROWN
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
Putting Veterans first



Midwest
Veterans Closet
Where Veterans shop **free**

Shirley Ryan
Abilitylab

Marcus Institute for Brain Health

EMORY
HEALTHCARE