



HEROES THANKING HEROES

A Monthly Newsletter of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

Hello, my name is Malcolm George.

I go by Malcolm or my nickname "Cue," which mostly everyone calls me, with the exception of my kids. I was born and raised in Winston-Salem, NC, and joined the army when I was 18, straight after graduation. My MOS was 92A (Automated Logistics Specialist), where I served 9 years (June 1st, 2001-November 30th, 2010), and 3 deployments, all to Iraq (April 2003-April 2004, October 2005-October 2006, April 2008-September 2008). My injuries occurred in September 2008. I was in a coma for 14 days and sustained numerous injuries, which consisted of: severe TBI, enucleation of the right eye, cranial plastic surgery to replace a piece of my skull, missing teeth, tracheotomy, broken left arm, broken right leg and hip, and had to have a blood transfusion. I've been married and divorced twice and have four sons: Shondre'(16), Jeremiah(10), Ezekiel(8), Gabriel(6). I'm proud of them all.

I was on a convoy in Iraq on September 17, 2008, on MSR Tampa, traveling from FOB Warrior further south to help be a TC (truck commander) in one of the M1114s we were traveling in.

I say "help" because I wasn't supposed to even be on that convoy;

I was filling in because they needed an E-5 to be a TC.

AUGUST 2022

8.4 National Coast Guard Day/US Coast Guard Birthday
8.7 Purple Heart Day, American Family Day/ National Sisters Day
8.11 National Son & Daughter Day
8.13 International Left Handers Day
8.16 National Tell a Joke Day/ National Airborne Day
8.17 National Non Profit Day
8.18 National Couples Day
8.19 National Aviation Day
8.21 International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
8.26 National Dog Day
8.29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday
8.30 National Grief Awareness Day
8.31 International Overdose Awareness Day

I was in a vehicle with 2 PFC's that I wasn't personally familiar with, but I saw them around a couple of times. We ended up getting in a collision with a civilian flatbed truck that was on the shoulder of the road that we were traveling on. A couple of buddies told me that everyone at the scene thought I was dead because of my blood-soaked uniform and the condition and position that my body was in. When the wrecker pulled the two vehicles apart, I started coughing, and they immediately called in a nine line where I was medivac to the local CASH, then Landstuhl, Germany, and finally to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

According to the CID report, the driver fell asleep at the wheel resulting in the death of the gunner and me being critically injured.

The driver walked away with only a sprained ankle and would later return to duty the following day.

My injuries included: a severe TBI (traumatic brain injury) which the doctors had to remove a piece of my skull due to hemorrhaging from my brain, craniotomy, missing teeth, memory loss, multiple facial surgeries, tracheotomy, enucleation of right eye, broken left arm, sprained left wrist, broken right hip, broken right femur, PTSD, and cognition disorder. I was also in a coma for 14 days and was very delirious upon my awakening. The doctor and nurses had to calm me down and help me realize the environment I was in. When I realized there was no window in my bedroom, and I began asking myself, "Why is all my bedding white? What are all these machines? Why can I see the tops of buildings? How come I can't move my legs? What's happening right now?" I knew I was in a hospital. The doctor later reviewed and went over all of my injuries with me and told me to get some rest. The next day I began rehab and therapy.

My road to recovery started off bumpy but began to progress as time went on. I had multiple therapies in the same day, from occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, of course, and I saw a psychiatrist for my emotional wellbeing. I was doing therapy every day and getting used to my therapist when in November of 2008, I was moved to a hospital in my hometown due to my mom kicking and screaming to have me closer to her. I was there the entire month, and my family came through and regularly visited, which made for a good Thanksgiving as well. I was then moved the following month to the Hunter Holmes VA in Norfolk, Virginia, where I did the bulk of my recovery, going from a gurney to a wheelchair to stilts to walking with a limp to walking on my own within a six-month time period.



The doctors and therapists were astonished at how fast I was recovering.

After that, my next six months were spent at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C., where I was integrated back into being a soldier. It only included showing up for formations, making all of my medical appointments, and taking my meds. I got orders back to Fort Lewis in September of 2009, where I was medically discharged and became a civilian. I later got married again and had three children.

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes has helped my family and me out tremendously by providing me with part-time employment from my own home and making it easier for me to earn income. I attended the Road to Recovery in San Diego in 2014, and that's how I got involved in the HTH program. We learned, attended a lot of great seminars and classes, and also heard a lot of war stories. The kids had a great time, and it was an overall great experience for us.

I was provided with emergency financial aid by the Coalition a few years ago when my home was in foreclosure status. I let my leadership team know what the problem was, provided them with my supporting documents, and the very next week, Mr. David Walker provided a check to the mortgage company that covered my debt and pulled my home out of foreclosure. If it weren't for the Coalition, I would have lost my home. Thank you.

It would be very difficult for me to keep employment outside of my home because of my caregiving duties. Having employment through the Coalition has helped me be a better caregiver, given me the ability to feel like I have a purpose outside of caregiving, and helped me give back to my veteran and caregiver communities while contributing to our household income. This is more than just employment, this is a way for me to interact with my peers and make a difference.

-Lacy M.



*"Move forward.
Good things are
up ahead."*



THANK YOU TEXAS BANKER ASSOCIATION!
Over \$20k Raised - Pushups for Patriots

Push Ups For Patriots

Pushups for Patriots event in Galveston, Texas was a huge success for the Coalition! BIG Thank you to the Texas Banking Association and participating banks: Moody Bank, 1st Community Bank, Sussler Bank, Community National Bank of Texas, First United, First Financial Bank. Jamie Heidt of Moody Bank led the way and even got our Coalition Vice President, Donny Daughenbaugh, to chip in with Pushups! You can still give to this campaign by [clicking this link](#).

Upcoming Food Truck Events

01/ SEP/ 2022
Center Of American Values,
Pueblo, CO

02/ SEP / 2022
Mt Carmel, Colorado

20 / SEP/ 2022
Fort Campbell, KY



Burnout

Our latest blog titled "Burnout" written by a Veteran caregiver touches on the importance of 1) recognizing you are, and 2) finding what works for you. Some ideas and examples are shared to inspire you and as always, no caregiver is ever alone on this journey! [Read it here!](#)

Employment Resources



[Computer Career for veterans, free career evaluation](#)

National Hire a Veteran Day was July 25th

Take advantage by [creating a profile with Veteran Recruiting](#) where you can *research companies, chat with recruiters, apply for jobs, attend webinars, find a mentor, video interview, and more.*

NatCon is the largest annual convening of Post-9/11 veterans in the world. [Register for NatCon 2023 today!](#)

Heroes Freedom Weekend 2022

Made Ya' Laugh!

Q) WHERE DO YOU LEARN HOW TO MAKE BANANA SPLITS?

A) SUNDAY SCHOOL!



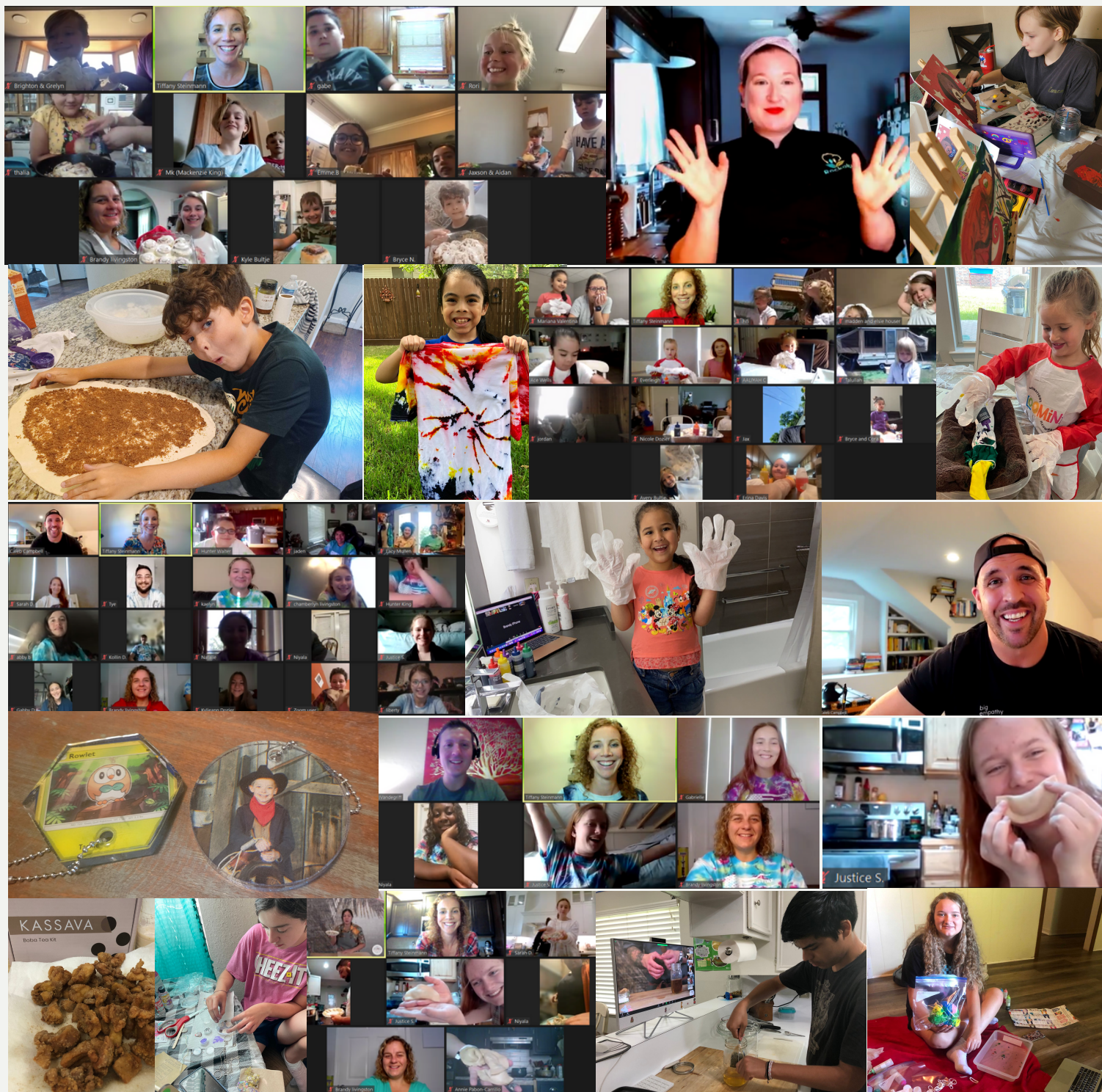
Submitted by: Malcom

Stay tuned for next month's joke brought to you by own of our HTH Representatives!

Last month the Coalition hosted our 5th Annual Heroes Freedom Weekend Marriage Retreat for 6 Veteran Couples. A core part of our mission is to encourage hope, healing and re-connecting. We strive to create life-changing experiences for our severely wounded veterans and their families from all across the U.S. as they continue on their road to recovery.



America's Little Helpers Virtual Summer Camp 2022



The photos above fill us with so much joy as we look back at the huge success of our first ever Virtual Summer Camp. From the organization of guest speakers and hosts for the cooking, baking, art, games, laughter and more, our America's Little Helpers Team combined with the donors and sponsors made this a magical memory for all involved. A very special shout out and thanks to program director Tiffany Steinmann and her assistant Brandy Livingston for hosting and all of the behind the scenes work that went into these events! To many more!

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