

# HEROES THANKING HEROES

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*Revisiting the Bultje's since their last spotlight in August 2021*



## I JOINED THE NAVY AS A CORPSMAN IN AUGUST 2008.

I was a petty officer 3rd class when I got out in December 2013. My husband, Steve Bultje, joined the United States Marine Corps in 2007, shortly after graduating high school. Steve went on to deploy twice to Afghanistan, ultimately getting injured in the Sangin District in 2011.

## HE WAS ONLY 21 AT THE TIME OF HIS INJURY.

Steve was injured on March 5th when he was attacked by a Taliban improvised explosive device while on a foot patrol. He required over a dozen surgeries and the physical and mental toll was difficult. I had just been reassigned from Okinawa Japan to work at Portsmouth Naval Hospital when I met Steve on Easter day April 24th, 2011. I was an active-duty Navy Corpsman and was put on a weekend watch at the Patriots inn. We stayed together through all the surgeries and eventually both got out and started our family.



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Even though he is physically doing better, we still have several dates throughout the year that seem to bring us back in time. Losing his friends at such a young age has remained such a painful experience and I know this is a similar feeling shared by many veterans across the US. Our kids get to hear stories about these amazing men and we make sure they are always remembered. Steve is also so moved by the sacrifice of his brothers

*and uses this as his motivation to thrive and enjoy his gift of life.*

Currently we live in New Braunfels Texas with our two kids Kyle, and Avery. My husband is currently working as a dental hygienist where he loves his job and his patients. He went from shooting rocket launchers in the Marine Corp to cleaning teeth and providing patient care. Last time I did this newsletter, I was an HTH call rep making calls and thanking our amazing Donors. In May 2022 I was hired on as a Team Lead position and have since been a manager of my own team. Having a team of my own has been such a great experience. Advancing in the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes family has been an honor and I really do feel like we are all family.





My family and I have a lot to look forward to this year. Two significant events are in store for us in 2023. My husband and I will be celebrating our 10th wedding anniversary and we will be celebrating our son Kyle's 10th birthday. Steve and I have been looking forward to this anniversary for a very long time as a chance to renew our vows. Our original wedding was cancelled in lieu of a more intimate ceremony as Steve required his right leg amputation surgery that same week. It's amazing to think of what we have been through and accomplished since that day. We look forward to many more memories in the new year.

## FEBRUARY

- 1 | National Freedom Day
- 2 | Goundhog Day | World Read Aloud Day
- 4 | World Cancer Day
- 7 | National Send a Card to a Friend Day
- 10 | Giving Hearts Day
- 14 | Valentines Day
- 16 | President & CEO of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes David Walker's Birthday
- 17 | Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 18 | National Caregivers Day
- 19 | Coastguard Reserves Birthday
- 20 | Love Your Pet Day
- 21 | Presidents Day



**Everyone should have 3 hobbies**

ONE TO KEEP YOU CREATIVE  
ONE TO KEEP YOU IN SHAPE  
ONE TO MAKE YOU MONEY







## "OUR STORIES HAVE NO EXPIRATION DATE"

After taking on the monumental task of cleaning out and flipping a deceased family members home, Savanna and her husband were faced with the profound realization that they have placed too much value upon possessions, and not enough on traveling and making memories.

**BE INSPIRED: READ THE FULL BLOG HERE**

R E T I R I N G   Y O U R   B O O T S   B L O G

## EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

**VETERANS CIRCLE MEMBERS: JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

**Thursday | January 26th | 7pm EST | 4pm PST**

**REGISTER HERE**

- Employers look at resumes for an average of only six or seven seconds.
- You'll get the best results if you send your resume between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. within the first four days of a job being posted.
- >>> **READ MORE RESUME TIPS!**
- The Benefits of Mentorship As You Transition Back to Civilian Life
- Your Least Favorite Interview Questions... And How to Answer Them!
- 2023 Military Friendly Employers
- Search thousands of job openings in your area

## URGENT CALL FOR HELP THIS PAST WEEK:

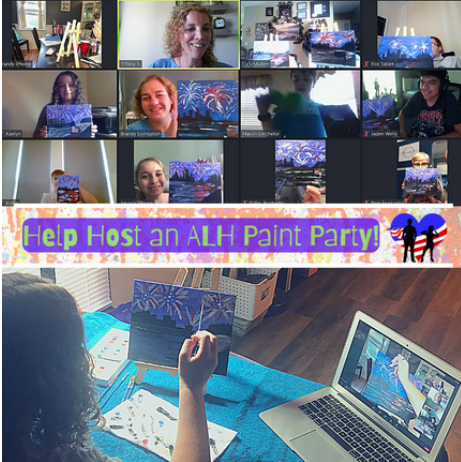
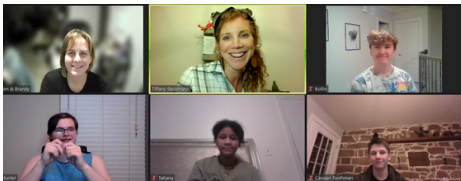
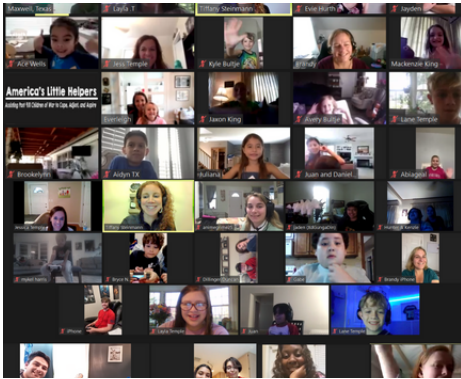
Army veteran, married with 5 children, did four tours in Iraq before he was severely injured. This purple heart recipient suffers from PTSD and a traumatic brain injury. His spouse lost her job and they found it hard to pay bills and were on the verge of foreclosure. He waited to ask for assistance because he was embarrassed... *Thanks to YOU the Coalition was able to step in with mortgage assistance!*

Our veterans are being hit especially hard and have no additional funding coming to their aid. They are desperately calling us to help **save their home, avoid a utility disconnection, and put food on the table.**

Many of this week's applicants are already more than **2 months delinquent** on bills. You can help today by **clicking here**

# AMERICA'S LITTLE HELPERS

COPE | ADJUST | ASPIRE



This February, ALH youth and young adults are invited to a PAINT PARTY!

Make a difference in the lives of America's youngest heroes TODAY by [clicking here](#) to sponsor a child for this event!

As predicted, the demand for a program like **America's Little Helpers** has proven essential among our veteran families. Much like the **Veteran's Caregiver Alliance**, our focus is to give children of veterans a safe environment where they will grow and make connections with people who relate to and understand the unique lifestyle.

Membership has grown to 185 and counting; we proud and honored to be building a community of strong, caring, knowledgeable children and young adults.

December was a jam packed month of challenges and connections! We played games like Jackbox, Minute to Win it, and treasure hunts, as well as applesauce ornaments for the tree, and unboxed secret Santa gifts! The Grinch even made an appearance for story time! We love hearing what our members want to do, so January has been dedicated to learning all about their hopes for ALH in the coming year with "Share and Tell" and "Sip and Snack" zoom calls scheduled for the end of this month!

*The crazy wife told her  
husband that moose were  
falling from the sky!  
The husband replied,  
it's just reindeer...  
MADE YA' LAUGH!*

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

