

— NOVEMBER 2022 —

# HEROES THANKING HEROES

REBUILDING LIVES - RESTORING HOPE



## HI, MY NAME IS SAVANNA BURRELL

and I live in Crystal River, Florida with my husband Chris Burrell. Chris served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 23 years and retired as a Master Sergeant. He served 9 combat tours over his time in the Marines. Chris has served in both 2nd and 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalions throughout his career and has served in combat with both as well. Chris was involved in combat operations in Bosnia/Kosovo, Somalia, Desert shield/storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan to name a few.



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## DECEMBER

1. Civil Air Patrol Birthday  
7. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
13. National Guard Birthday / National Horse Day  
17. National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day  
18. National Wreaths Across America Day  
21. Winter Solstice  
24. Christmas Eve  
25. Christmas Day  
28. National Call a Friend Day / Pledge of Allegiance Day  
29. National Hero Day  
31. New Years Eve



## IN 2003, CHRIS WAS ONE OF THE LEAD UNITS FOR THE INVASION OF IRAQ.

On April 10th, as his team was entering the city of Baghdad, Chris took a ricocheted bullet to the face and left eye leaving him a little bloody but they pushed on. Later that morning, while still in the fight Chris was wounded a second and third time from Rocket-propelled grenades impacting his turret. These injuries have left Chris with scars on his face and limited vision in his left eye.

*"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."  
Meister Eckhart*



Submitted by  
Tonya B.  
HTH Representative







## RECOVERY IS STILL AN ONGOING PROCESS.

Some days are always better than others, however, we cherish our good days and try to not focus on the bad. Chris still seeks medical care from our local VA and continues to treat his combat injuries. Not all wounds are visible, and I commend my husband for making his health both physical and mental a priority. Although PTSD, TBI, and physical injuries are daily issues he is faced with, we have found ways to navigate our day according to his symptoms.

This is possible thanks to working in the Hero's Thanking Heroes program. I can navigate my work schedule with his health needs which takes a huge strain off our family. Having the flexibility and to be working with a team who understands and cares has been a huge blessing. Some days he's in so much pain we stay home and watch movies, so I can work while he naps. I love whipping up a good charcuterie board which always brings a smile to his face too. On other days he is feeling the need to get out of the house, so we get on the Harley and just ride. The wind and music is therapy for him which is so beneficial. It helps quiet his mind riding through the beautiful roads here in Florida.

In 2004, my husband somehow found a way to go back to Iraq for another tour. During this time, Chris was operating as a small section and his team encountered dozens of IED's. He ended up with shrapnel to the face (yes, again) as well as several concussions leading to substantial Traumatic Brain Damage and severe PTSD. The last year and a half of Chris's service in the Marines was spent as a patient at the Wounded Warrior Battalion.



I am able to make my husband my top priority while still working with Hero's Thanking Heroes, and for that, we are so grateful. I knew Chris for a year before accepting his invitation to go on a ride with him on his Harley. I had run into him at a battle of the bands' event and he yet again asked if I wanted to go on a ride. So I said "Ok Marine I'll go on a day ride with you on Marine Corps Birthday" (that was the upcoming Wednesday.) After that is all history; we've been together every day since.

We recently got married in the summer and are very excited for the adventures that await us. One thing we both ignite in one another is our love for adventure and spontaneity. Living life in the moment with my best friend is a gift that will never get old. Despite the struggles he faces that linger from the war, he doesn't take a moment for granted and we revel in the joys life brings us. Whether it's riding the Harley to Daytona for Bike Week or having a glass of wine and charcuterie at home, we try to focus on what we can control and how we can make it a positive.



**P.S. TO MY HANDSOME HUSBAND, MASTER SERGEANT BURRELL THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR COUNTY AND MY HEART. YOUR SCARS MAKE YOU THE WONDERFUL MAN YOU ARE TODAY. I LOVE ALL OF YOU. YOUR STRENGTH AND INTEGRITY ARE SOMETHING I APPRECIATE EVERY DAY. SEMPER FI MY LOVE.**

## RETIRING YOUR BOOTS BLOG

Get to know The Burrell's a little more in one of Savanna's recent blogs titled "[5 at Home Date Nights](#)" where you'll find some inspiration for those nights you rather just stay in!







# AMERICA'S LITTLE HELPERS

It has been another busy and successful month of members learning new skills and bonding with their families and peers via our virtual events.

November prepared Little Helpers to share a delicious dessert with their loved ones just in time for the big day!

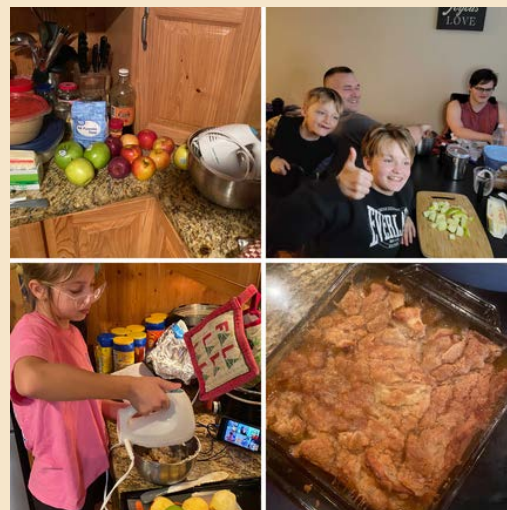


*cookie pie*

*cheese ball*



*pumpkin bread*



*apple crisp*



## MADE YA' LAUGH!

At a farm meeting, the turkeys, chickens, and ducks all got in trouble. Why?



They were using fowl language!



## EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

[Free Salesforce training for military and spouses.](#)

Create a Profile with [Veteran Recruiting](#); 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!](#)

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## WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR? 🙏

I am so thankful for the health and love of my family. Angela B.

I am thankful for the compassionate medical personnel. For those physicians and nurses whose care for their patients well being, and help advocate for them. Mayra H.

I am thankful for my wonderful husband, and a gracious god. Melissa C.