

The Patriot Fund Quarterly



Our Mission

Our Mission at The Patriot Fund is to provide funding for the critical services Veterans deserve to ensure their lifelong needs are sustained. We fully vet and only support, Best In Class partners who impact the lives of Veterans – TODAY.

**Proud to have completed our
Grant Distribution Cycle!**



A Successful 2nd Annual Patriot Invitational at Pelican Golf Club

Pelican Golf Club provided a spectacular setting—a world-class golf experience, exceptional food, outstanding service, and a beautiful venue, but it was your passion and shared patriotism that made this event truly special. **We are thrilled to share that we raised over \$470,000 for our Veterans!**



The shotgun start kicked off with the Dunedin Color Guard presenting the colors under the command of General Bryan Fenton (Ret.), and Katie Ducharme's beautiful a capella performance of the National Anthem left many in the audience deeply moved. We welcomed 84 golfers to compete in a spirited scramble, with an impressive winning score of 15 under par. The \$15,000 putting contest was a highlight of the day—one participant made it all the way to the 50-foot putt, narrowly missing the prize by just inches!



The evening program was just as meaningful. We were honored to host 170 guests at the Stars and Stripes dinner. The Permy Family & Power Design, Inc. graciously accepted recognition as our 2026 Greater Tampa Patriot of the Year and made a generous contribution during their remarks. Major Jon Turnbull shared his powerful story of resilience and the inspiration behind his book *Zero Percent Chance*, and Evangelo Morris delivered a moving performance of "Old Glory" that earned a standing ovation. We were honored to have Dr. Damon Friedman, Founder of SOF Missions, present the POW/MIA table along with the challenge coin and also express a thoughtful thank you to our Veterans. Special thanks as well to Dave Ingram for serving as an outstanding emcee throughout the evening.

[Click Here to View Event Photos](#)

A Night to Honor US Veteran
Bruce E. Mitchell

On Tuesday, May 5th, Chickie's & Pete's hosted community, non-profit and academic leaders for a special presentation recognizing ongoing service and partnership through a targeted investment in The Patriot Fund's mission to help Veterans.

Chickie's & Pete's gifted \$25,000 to The Patriot Fund in support of service dog initiatives. This partnership reflects Chickie's and Pete's continued trust in The Patriot Fund to steward their financial support of those who have served, while also providing the meaningful opportunity to name the service dog in remembrance of Bruce Mitchell, a U.S. Army Veteran, and longtime friend of Chickie's and Pete's owner Pete Ciarrocchi.

Through this investment, The Patriot Fund has directed funding to Leashes of Valor, a nationally recognized Veteran focused organization, to train and place a highly skilled service dog - Bruce - within Thomas Jefferson University – College of Nursing. By embedding this model within an academic and clinical environment that includes Veterans and military connected individuals transitioning into healthcare careers, this investment has extended the reach of a trusted intervention, supporting not only the wellbeing of those who have served, but strengthening the environments in which they continue their service as caregivers, professionals, and leaders in their communities.



Bruce, the Service Dog, named after U.S. Army Veteran Bruce E. Mitchell



Marie Ann Marino, EdD, RN, FAAN, Dean & Professor, Thomas Jefferson University - College of Nursing and Vice President, Nursing Academics Partnerships & Innovation, Jefferson Health, pictured with Matt Ellison, Executive Director of The Patriot Fund

DOVE Featured for Work Providing Life-Saving Kidney Transplants to Veterans

Check out the link below showcasing the amazing work one of our Operational Partners is doing to impact our Veterans directly and immediately. DOVE has been a Patriot Fund grant recipient for several years and continues to promote the Patriot Fund mission through their amazing service.

[Click Here to Watch the Video](#)

Upcoming 2026 Events



The Patriot Fund Annual Gala

The Union League of Philadelphia
10.23.2026

[Click Here for Tickets](#)



The 6th Annual Stars & Stripes Gala

The Ritz-Carlton Naples, Tiburon, FL
11.6.2026

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

Story of Impact Spotlight

dogsinc Service Dog Team



BRUCE COLLISON AND RILEY

U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran
Sarasota, Florida

Sunlight reflected off the black granite of the Vietnam Memorial. Names etched in the wall brought back memories of war etched in Bruce's brain.

The sergeant that pulled him off the mission last minute. Gunfire over the radio. Wounds and faces of the men he treated—13 down in a helicopter crash, dozens more on the ground.

Though Bruce tried to keep that chapter of life in the past, consequences of trauma crept through the cracks.

"As a combat medic, we take care of others. We don't worry about ourselves," Bruce says. "But my anxiety got worse. Panic attacks got worse. It got to the point where I was virtually home bound."

That's when Riley stepped into the picture.

"The first time I met Riley I had this unbelievable feeling of brightness and warmth," Bruce says. "She was like a ray of sunshine coming into my life."

Riley's affection puts a smile on Bruce's face his family hadn't seen in years. With her companionship, he can now do things independently and engage with the world again.

"I have a new level of comfort with her," Bruce says. "She's getting me back to being a social person. I feel so blessed and grateful that Riley entered my life and became a member of my family."



With special thanks to The Patriot Fund for funding a scholarship for this incredible placement.

Operational Partner Spotlight

The Honor Foundation (THF) is a career transition program for U.S. Special Operations Forces that effectively translates their elite military service to the private sector and helps create the next generation of corporate and community leaders. They

provide a clear process for professional development and a diverse ecosystem of world class support and technology. Every step is dedicated to preparing these



THE HONOR FOUNDATION

outstanding men and women to continue to realize their maximum potential during and after their service career.

[Click Here to Learn More About The Honor Foundation](#)

Board Member Spotlight



Matthew Mullins is a Tax Manager with Mercadien, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, and a member of the firm's Business Services Group. He works closely with pass-through entities and corporations, overseeing tax planning and preparation from start to finish. He also supports the development of both entry-level and experienced staff while promoting a strong, team-first culture.

Matthew brings experience in the real estate industry, a deep understanding of pass-through entity tax structures, and a practical approach to helping clients navigate tax planning and compliance.

Before joining Mercadien, Matthew was a Tax Supervisor at WithumSmith+Brown, P.C. (Withum), where he specialized in real estate tax and provided services to a range of pass-through entities, not-for-profit organizations, and individual tax clients. He also played a role in firm innovation initiatives, led tax technical trainings, onboarded new team members into the real estate niche, and served as a mentor and career coach to entry-level staff.

Earlier in his career, Matthew interned at Isdaner & Company, LLC, where he focused primarily on fiduciary tax preparation for high-net-worth clients.

[View All Leadership Bios Here](#)

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