

Beyond Battle

Volume I: Interviews I-X



Beyond Battle

CONTENTS

What is Beyond Battle?.....pg 1
Our Why.....pg 2-3
Interviews
Clarence Matthews.....pg 4-5
Kirk Bauer.....pg 6-7
Dia Beshara.....pg 8-9
Nate Boyer.....pg 10-11
Debbie Lee.....pg 12-13
David Morris.....pg 14-15
Bryce Mahoney.....pg 16-17
Travis Mills.....pg 18-19
Leo Jenkins.....pg 20-21
Daniel Murphy.....pg 22-23
Acknowledgements.....pg 24



WHAT IS BEYOND BATTLE?

We, as citizens, have an obligation to go above and beyond, to help our military community in anyway possible. Making a donation, or reading the stories and opinions of the military community to understand their experiences, are both ways in which we, as citizens, can make a strong effort to aid those who have done so much for us.

Beyond Battle has two goals. The first is to help bridge the gap between the military and civilian communities, by giving the military community a platform to share their stories, experiences and opinions. By gaining a better understanding of what the military community has, and is currently going through, we, as civilians, place ourselves in the best possible position to help them in anyway possible.

The second goal is to help impassioned citizens give back to the military community. There are currently over 40,000 military support charities in the United States- and not all of them are created equal. In Beyond Battle, we will help interview and highlight the charities that are doing the best work to support the military community in terms of mission valiance and financial health and transparency.



OUR WHY

In America, there is an ever growing gap between the military and civilian communities. Less than 1% of the adult population is currently serving in the military. When you add on the veteran population, which the VA estimates to be 22 million, 7.3% of Americans have served in the military. When we look at Congress in 1971, Veterans made up 72% of members in the house and 78% of the senate. A few years ago in the 114th congress, veterans only made up 16% of senators and 18% of representatives.

The unmet market that Beyond Battle meets, is that we are putting the voice of the military community back into the lives of everyday individuals. While veterans do not represent the majority of our population, they do represent the best of what America has to offer, exemplifying characteristics such as selfless service, ingenuity, integrity, courage and leadership. With all of these amazing qualities, as well as their unique experiences, it is imperative, that as civilians, we listen and learn from the military community.



Our armed forces have lived their lives not only with their own well-being in mind, but in the service of all Americans. One of the amazing aspects of contemporary America is that we do not have to join the military if we do not want to- and that is because we have incredibly courageous men and women willing to answer the call and serve voluntarily.

While it is a good start to thank our veterans and service members for their service- it is not enough. Making a donation to a reliable veteran service organization or reading about the stories, opinions and experiences of the military community, are both ways in which we can make a strong effort to aid those who have done so much for us.



CLARENCE MATTHEWS

Clarence was an Army Infantry officer who served with the 82nd Airborne Division and now works for GallantFew.



On What the Flag Means to Him.

But what does it mean? To me, I mean it really is a symbol. People really don't understand or appreciate the history of the country, and what their freedoms really are.



That flag is everything. It has a star for each one of our states. That red is for the blood that we've shed. That is the symbol of freedom. And it is probably one of the top five symbols in the world that people either love or hate—it's very polarizing. And for a piece of cloth to do that, I think is amazing and speaks for itself.



KIRK BAUER

Kirk served in the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam.



During an ambush Kirk was hit with a grenade, and ended up losing his leg above the knee. He is now the executive director of Disabled Sports USA.



On What Inspires Him

I get inspired every single day. Every day. Well, actually I don't know if I can say every day, but darn near almost every week, by the stories, and meeting the people that we serve, who are doing some absolutely incredible things, but they got that first start by getting involved in something in the hospital, some sport activity, and they just really took off.

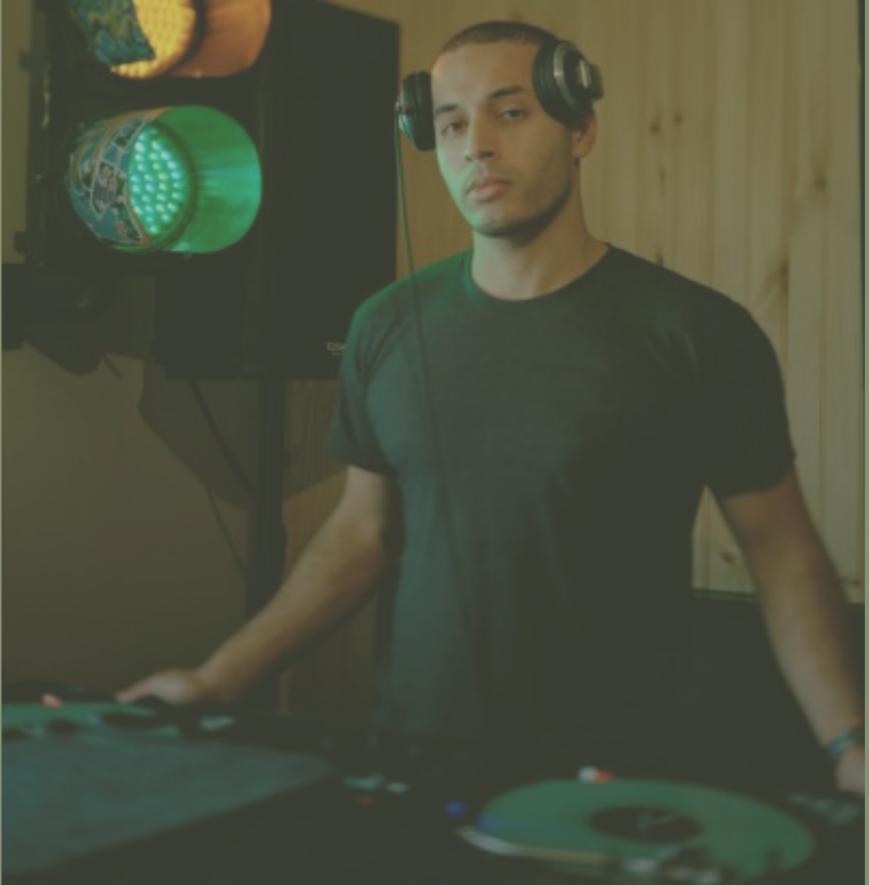


But that is the payback, because I am having an absolute ball right now because the people were serving are just bouncing back so strongly and are doing such incredible things with their life, it's just a total inspiration for me.



DIA BESHARA

Dia Beshara served in the Air Force as a flight test engineer and now is a volunteer with The Mission Continues in Brooklyn.



On the Military Community

And it really did feel like a community, it didn't feel like a job, it felt like a family. And when guys were deployed people would go out of their way to put together care packages and send them and surprise those guys. If your wife needed help mowing the lawn, or if something broke at home- you could depend on those guys in the unit to go take care of it and help out...

But its all of those small things here or there in the military just made you feel like they cared about you. And you care about them in return. When your boys where gone and they were deployed you would send them letters and care packages. When they got home you would meet them at the airport and have a welcome home banner. It was really more of a brotherhood and less of a job.

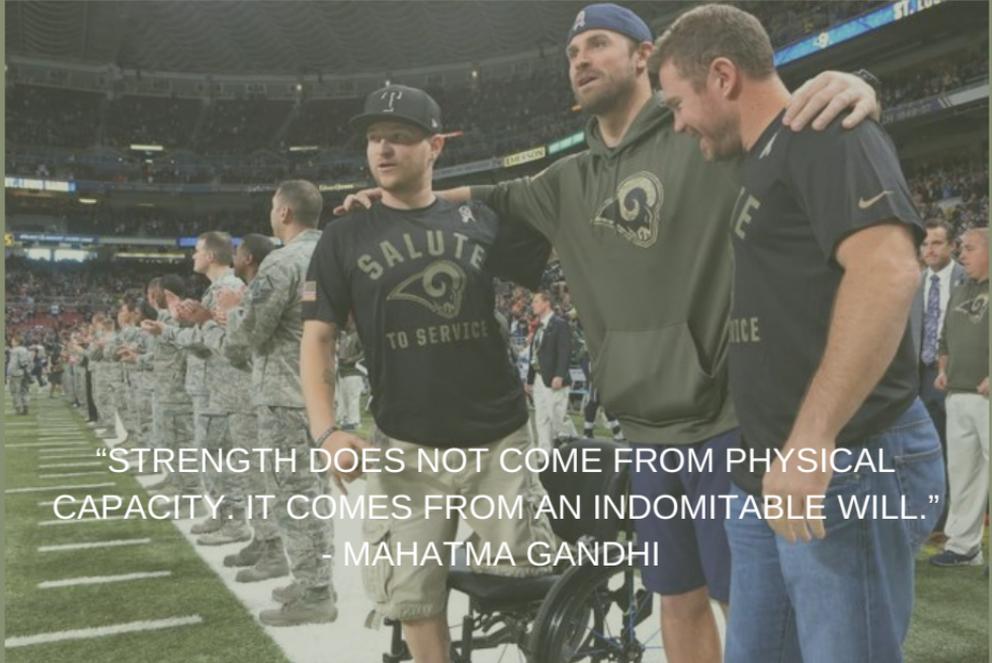


NATE BOYER

Nate has served in the Special Forces, and has spent time as a long snapper for the University of Texas, as well as on the Seattle Seahawks. Nate is also a proud supporter of incredible organizations, such as 22Kill and Waterboys.



On the Willpower to Try New Things



“STRENGTH DOES NOT COME FROM PHYSICAL
CAPACITY. IT COMES FROM AN INDOMITABLE WILL.”
- MAHATMA GANDHI

I mean look at Gandhi. He was a little dude. I really believe
that with anything...

...And the amount of work and time that I put into it is why it
happened, not because I was good at it, and not because of
any other reason.



DEBBIE LEE

Debbie Lee is the founder of America's Mighty Warriors, and mother of Marc Lee, the first SEAL killed in Iraq.



On Marc's Impact and Legacy

I have had more than a handful of people write to me saying: “I was ready to blow my brains out, I had the tarp laid out in my garage, and I remembered Marc and I read his letter. I thought about what you were doing and how in the midst of losing your son you’re carrying on, and I couldn’t end it when Marc gave his life for me to live.”



I don’t know if this happens on a daily basis, but it’s pretty regular that I get emails or a card in the mail that says “ I read your son’s story, and I’m doing this with my life, and I’m changing this, and I accepted his random acts of kindness and I brought someone a meal.”



DAVID MORRIS

Major General (Ret.) David Morris had thirty-six years of combined active and reserve duty. He spent time in Special Forces, the CIA, and SOCOM.



On Why he Served for Over Three Decades.

I can tell you that a part of it was that you feel a commitment to the people that you're with. The camaraderie, you serve with a lot of good people, and sometimes you see some examples of some not so good leaders and not so good leadership.



And you say "These Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, deserve better leadership than I saw this person give. I am going to make sure that at least the one's that I am in charge of and responsible for get better leadership than I've seen some others give."



BRYCE MAHONEY

Bryce Mahoney is a former 3/75 Ranger and current director of the Darby Project.



On Staying Connected

I see a need for us to continually stay connected. I feel that if we can stay connected with each other, on a regular, re-occurring, physical basis, not Facebook or social media, we will affect the outcome of a lot of people in a positive way. And one of the major goals of the Darby Project is just that.



Creating a network where people are linking up re-occurringly through shooting and going to the range, doing a workout, meeting for coffee- whatever. If I can get Rangers to meet every week, somewhere in the country- that will help that group of Rangers on the outside. I know that for a fact.



TRAVIS MILLS

Travis Mills is one of the five surviving quadruple amputees in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is also the founder of the Travis Mills Foundation.



On Persevering

I've had friends put in body bags, I've had to ship their bodies to their parents, and I was like, you know what, I still have the ability to do whatever I want. I can drive my truck, I can walk again, I can feed myself, and I can take my daughter out.



And I decided right then and there that I need to quit pitying myself, and just figure out a way to do this, because at the end of the day I have a little girl that's is going to call me her dad- and that doesn't change. I have a wife that says she's going to stay by my side and get through this stuff with me, so I might as well make the best of the situation, and that's what Walter Reed was able to let me do.



LEO JENKINS

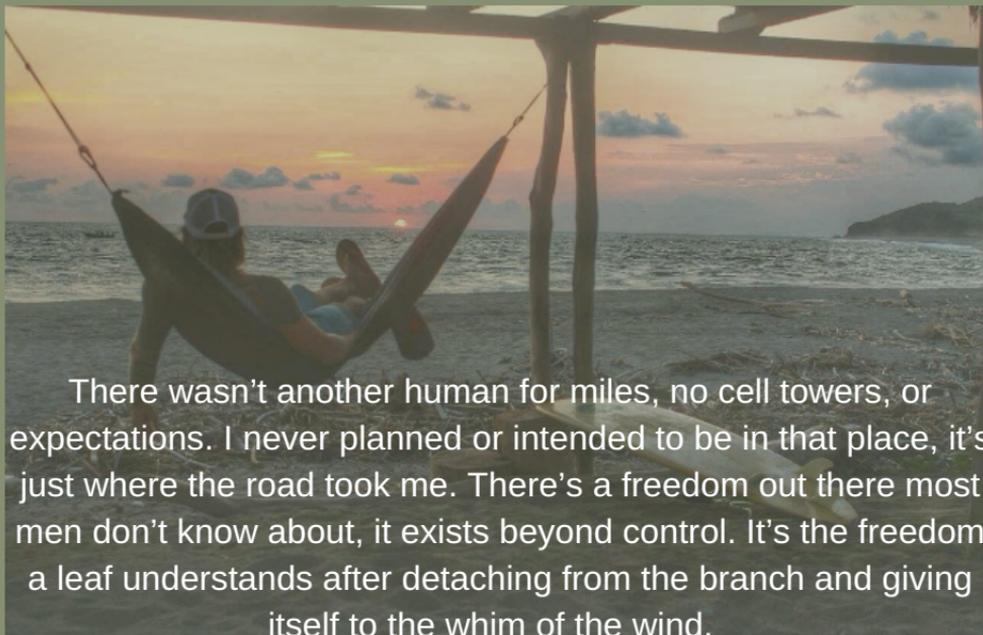
Author. Ranger Medic. Nomad.



On the Best Part of Going "Nomad"

Freedom. Pure. Unadulterated. Freedom.

I recall waking up in the Yukon province of Northern Canada to the sound of a glacier fed river flowing past my camp with serene violence.

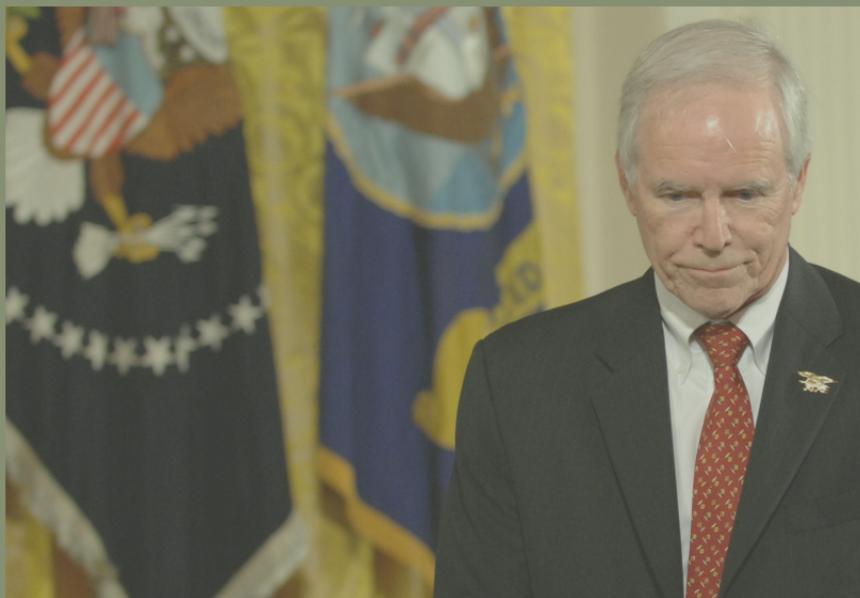


There wasn't another human for miles, no cell towers, or expectations. I never planned or intended to be in that place, it's just where the road took me. There's a freedom out there most men don't know about, it exists beyond control. It's the freedom a leaf understands after detaching from the branch and giving itself to the whim of the wind.



DANIEL MURPHY

For Michael Murphy's heroic actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. We had the chance to speak with his father, a Vietnam veteran, about Michael's story, dedication, and the foundation made in his name.



On Michael's Dedication and Mindset

And he said “Dad, if I wash out I’m going to end up a surface warfare officer sitting on some ship, and I’ll be the morale officer. I have no desire to be on a ship floating around on the ocean.”



That’s not to put surface warfare officers down, but that wasn’t Michael, Michael wanted to be in the thick of the action. So we knew he was going to get through it, and keeping with what Marcus Luttrell made reference to as far as Navy Seals never quit.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A huge thank you to the ten individuals who agreed to speak with us and share their stories, experiences, opinions and journeys.

For them to take the time to speak with us in such a kind, thoughtful and patient manner means more to us than we can express in words.



