

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How do you define the *warrior spirit*? For many, it signifies determination, perseverance and fearlessness. The most common perception of the warrior spirit is likely the one that exists on the battlefield. From patrolling sweltering deserts in search of the adversary, to braving IED-strewn roads or getting caught in a surprise firefight, many of us will never know what it's like to face the wrath of the enemy. It takes tremendous courage to volunteer for our nation's military.

There is also a different kind of warrior spirit that merits discussion. Since the founding of Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station in 2004, I've had the privilege of bearing witness to courageous acts that have forever altered my perception of what it means to be a warrior. And none of them happened on the battlefield.

The warrior spirit lives in seriously injured warriors who endure painful surgeries and grueling physical therapy with grit and determination;

It lives in amputees who put on prosthetic legs for the first time, stumble, and fall, only to get up again time and time again;

It lives in warriors who trade the comfort and familiarity of a uniform for the uncertainty of a suit and tie; second guessing themselves every step of the way, but forging ahead regardless;

It lives in warriors who feel they have lost their identity when they medically retire from the military, yet soon realize they are still whole, unstoppable and capable of accomplishing more than ever in the civilian world;

It lives in warriors who realize they are not alone and have the courage to reach out in their darkest hours and ask for help in finding their way again.

The warrior spirit is embodied by all the brave men and women that Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station has been privileged to serve. It also exists in the incredible team of volunteers that put their heart and souls into our mission, every day. They give selflessly of their time and talents because they appreciate the sacrifice that others have made for our freedom.

Lastly, we are forever grateful to our donors from all over the country. From individual philanthropists to caring corporate citizens and hardworking American families, their support is what makes our work possible.

To the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station salutes you.

God Bless,
Sandy Lehmkuhler
President
Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station

