

Mission: “Reconnect Weekends”

Patriot Military Family Foundation (PMFF) is dedicated to providing our military service members and their families the dignity and support owed to them by a grateful nation as they deal with the consequences of their service. PMFF focuses on providing for the needs that are not provided for through any existing benefits programs. It is through the generosity of those who support PMFF that these needs are met for those who have nowhere else to turn for help.

Rick Cantwell, a Special Operations officer for twenty years after graduating from West Point in 1975, founded PMFF. PMFF is often asked to step in and help with emotional as well as financial needs of individual families. “Reconnect Weekends” are one of the recent initiatives that MFLCF has helped champion and organize.

Over the past two years, PMFF’s host ambassador John Chinuntdet and his family have hosted six U.S. Special Forces families at no cost to the families. These families travel from the 10th Group Special Forces based in Fort Carson, CO to their ranch to fly fish, ride ATVs, shoot rifles, enjoy archery, dine on great food, and generally have fun and relax in the Colorado high country. All of the participating soldiers have been recipients of the Purple Heart.

John began organizing these weekends after spending a day at Fort Bragg, NC in spring 2012 with Rick Cantwell and Rone Reed, a West Point graduate and Special Forces ODA Commander. John wanted to share what his family has with the soldiers who serve our country and make sacrifices for us. Their goal is to provide a well-deserved retreat for the soldiers so they can strengthen family bonds in a relaxing setting. For the Chinuntdets, it’s their small way of saying “Thank You” to the soldiers who put their lives on the line for all of us.

One example of a recent guest family is LTC Theodore (Ted) Jones (names have been changed for security). Ted and his wife, Pat, have three daughters (Trinity (20), Kathy (14) and Kaitlyn (4)). In 2012, Ted and Pat adopted Pat’s nephews, John (9) and Donald (8) after the boys’ father tragically drowned and the boys’ mother was murdered by a jealous boyfriend. In June 2013, Ted and Pat also adopted the orphaned son (20 months old) of the man in prison who murdered their mother.

In his day job, Ted is a decorated USSF member having served tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Yemen and Uganda.

Lastly, here are a few excerpted “Thank You” notes from the families our PMFF ambassadors have hosted:

“John, you’re right: I am lucky to have my two favorite people in my life. And, we are very lucky to be able to spend time with all your friends, colleagues and you at your ranch last weekend. I can’t thank you enough for your gift to us. My fiancé, my son and I had an amazing weekend. I’m sure she’ll want to send her own thanks. My son sends greetings to your daughter and you. I wanted to thank her for spending time with the kids last weekend.”



“On behalf of my family, we want to give you and your family the thanks that you all deserve too. It is not every day that you meet extraordinary civilians that support

what the military does on a daily basis. It was our honor and extreme privilege to spend time with you and to create memories with you and your family this weekend. There are no words that can express to you the gratitude that my family has for the amazing weekend that you provided and that we all experienced at your ranch. You have brought my family closer together and have provided us memories and experiences that will last a lifetime. Once again, my family is extremely grateful and wanted you to know that if you or your family ever needs anything, we are only a phone call away.”



It is through efforts of donors like the Chinuntdets which enable PMFF to provide educational grants for children who have lost a parent or help the family of a deployed soldier with their emergency household expenses. MFLCF provides for the unseen needs of our service members and their families. Only through the open hearted generosity of patriotic Americans can MFLCF continue to reach out and answer the call of those in need.

For information on hosting a wounded-warrior “Reconnect Weekend,” please contact: Rick Cantwell at cantwellr@patriotmilitaryfamilyfoundation.org.

Our sole duty is to thank those who serve!