

3d Battalion, 11th Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation Newsletter



31 July 2025

The 3d Battalion, 11th Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation is an Internal Revenue Service-recognized 501(c)(3) charity incorporated in the State of Texas with Federal tax ID 46-4240572. There is no paid staff and an all-volunteer Board of Directors.

Mission

The mission of the 3d Battalion, 11th Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation is to aid wounded Marines; to continue to support the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio; and to seek additional opportunities to help wounded Marines of every generation. Marine Wounded Warriors are defined as combat and non-combat wounded, ill, and injured Marines; Sailors attached to Marine units; and their family members.

If you have a need or know of a Marine with a need that falls under our mission, please let one of the Directors on page 2 know.

President's Message

As we head into the second half of 2025, I can assure you that the 3/11 Marines Foundation is solid. Your Board Members and Board Advisers are committed to supporting our mission to the fullest.

Even though we currently have seven Wounded Warriors under care at the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), it is imperative that we continue to be ready for a time when the number of Wounded Warriors at the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio will increase. With the current world situation, that could happen overnight. We must continue to “BE PREPARED.”

The 3/11 Marines Foundation is also working hard to eliminate Veteran Suicide, to assist those in need, and to provide financial support when warranted. Dr. Barry

Wortham chairs our Suicide Awareness and Prevention Committee, and the entire Board remains mission-oriented.

Please visit our website at <https://3-11marines.org> or search for 3/11 Marines Foundation on the web. Your support is always needed and appreciated.

Woodrow “Woody” Hall

Board of Directors and Advisers

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Doug Miller	Board Liaison to the Marine Artillery Association	

Feel free to contact any Board Director with your concerns.

If you are interested in serving on the Board as a Director or as an Adviser, please contact Woody Hall via his email address above or by phone at 931-242-8432.

Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio (taken from previous article written by Mr. Juan Ortegon, Deputy OIC; edited by Nanci Visser)

Nestled in the heart of Texas, the Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio is a beacon of hope and recovery for service members facing life-altering challenges. Currently supporting seven recovering service members (RSMs), the detachment offers a structured environment to aid their journey through recovery from injuries and illnesses, including cancer and the aftermath of training accidents.

The mission of the Detachment extends beyond physical healing. It emphasizes mental resilience, professional development, and the restoration of purpose. By providing tailored care and resources, the Detachment ensures that each RSM has the tools to overcome adversity and to transition into the next chapter of their lives, whether returning to duty or pursuing civilian opportunities. With unwavering dedication, the Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio exemplifies the Marine Corps' commitment to leaving no Marine behind, honoring the sacrifices of its warriors, and supporting their road to recovery with dignity and strength.

On 20 July 2025, the first-ever reunion of Marine Wounded Warriors and Sailors who were ever attached to Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio took place. Some brought family members, and the 3/11 Marines Foundation paid for the airfare and one-night hotel stay of a Gold Star widow and her son. The Semper Fi and America's Fund supported the entire reunion for approximately 80 people.

Here is the 23 July 2025 public Facebook post of the reunion organizer, James Carter (edited by Nanci Visser):

This was an absolutely incredible experience to bring folks back together over a span of nearly 15 years of Marines who were patients, staff, family members, caregivers, case managers, and nonprofit organizations who all came together in a unique and very difficult time in the lives of many. It was an absolute honor to serve those who've given so much in more ways than one could ever imagine, except for those who did it, and ultimately those who gave their lives to serve the people of this country. Each and every one of you are heroes in my book.

This was never intended to be about one, but all, and an opportunity to bring some absolutely incredible people together for each other. This all came about because of a discussion of getting together. We had a date, space, and time, but it kept growing, and what was once 20 or so folks getting together turned into nearly 80. We had food, games, a photo booth, live music, and guest speakers. Retired MSgt

Johnathan Rose presented every veteran a star from a retired flag and presented a flag to Semper Fi & America's Fund – one that had been flown over the Capitol.

Retired MSgt Bumper Gomez started things off with a prayer and honoring the fallen. There was a live acoustic performance from Donnie Blanz, and he even played a song we'd written together years ago, "What's Left of Me." We heard from Kevin Phelps of Operation Enduring Respect – grateful for his time, dedication, and commitment to bringing service members to UT football, Dallas Cowboys, and a handful of Superbowl games, too! Sara Harlan Kliever represented the 3/11 Marines Foundation, and Barry Wortham represented the 3/11 Marines Foundation and FOCUS Marines Foundation. Sara also took care of the Gold Star families and sat in on nearly every single Zoom call as we pulled this all together from the beginning. Retired and former Commanding Officer of Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio, LtCol Barnes, addressed the Marines, providing hope, optimism, and encouragement for the way forward. He thanked all involved for their time, honor, respect, resilience, and support during the Marines' and their families' time at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

It was an honor to share a moment with you all and catch up on all the exciting things you all are up to. It was a whirlwind in time, but grand, nonetheless. Love, hugs, and respect to you all, until next time.

Lotta Love,
James "Sarge" Carter, Marine Corps Veteran



Upcoming Marine Artillery Association “Battery Adjust XIX” Reunion

WHO: All Marine Artillery Association Members, Family, and Friends — anyone who served or is currently serving with any USMC Artillery Unit.

WHAT: Battery Adjust XIX Reunion

WHEN: September 17-21, 2025

WHERE: Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) -- Irving, Texas (Wyndham DFW Hotel)

HOW: Battery Adjust XIX **Reunion Schedule** immediately below:

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Golf - TBD

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

1200 Check-in begins at the La Perle Bar

1200 Hospitality room opens at the La Perle Bar

2200 Hospitality room closes

Thursday, September 18, 2025

0845 JFK Assassination Bus will stage at the Wyndham DFW Airport Hotel

0900 JFK Assassination Bus Tour begins

1200 Lunch at Dallas Farmers Market

1300 Bus returns to Wyndham DFW Airport Hotel

1345 MOH Bus will stage at the Wyndham DFW Airport Hotel

1400 MOH Museum Bus departs for Medal of Honor Museum

1700 MOH Museum Bus returns to the Wyndham DFW Airport Hotel

1800 Hospitality room opens

2200 Hospitality room closes

Friday, September 19, 2025

0945 Bus will stage at the Wyndham DFW Airport Hotel

1000 Bus departs for the Fort Worth Stockyards

1445 Bus will stage at Fort Worth Stockyards

1500 Bus departs for the Wyndham DFW Airport Hotel

1600 Hospitality room opens

1700 Annual Meeting of 3/11 Marines Foundation in Diamond Board Room 2200

Hospitality room closes

Saturday, September 20, 2025

0900 Annual Business Meeting in Regency Theater

1700 Battery Pictures will begin at the Royal Banquet Hall

1800 Banquet begins in the Royal Banquet Hall

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Check out by 1100 – Have a safe trip home!

If you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas/Fort Worth. Semper Fi!

Brian Seals, President, Marine Artillery Association bseals2013@gmail.com

Cell: (765) 580-2734 – Please call during evening hours.

Ed Peterson, Treasurer, Marine Artillery Association ed66451@aol.com

Testimonials from previous reunions:

Last year's reunion in Savannah was a huge success. To quote Doug Miller who missed it, "Last weekend I missed a reunion with all Marine Corps Artillery. Next year it is in Dallas. I definitely won't miss that one. Young or old makes no difference. We bond, see old friends we served with, and make new friends."

Troy Nichols: "Just hanging out with my brothers. One of the things I look forward to most each year. If you haven't attended, you should. This is a great time."

Suicide Awareness & Prevention

Blast Overpressure (BOP) Injury and the Elevated Risk of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Among Artillery Marines (by Dr. Barry Wortham)

Blast Overpressure (BOP) injuries are a serious and often underestimated threat to service members operating in high-intensity environments. These injuries result from the intense pressure waves generated by explosions which travel faster than the speed of sound and can inflict damage without any physical contact from debris. The effects are particularly severe in gas-filled organs, such as the lungs, middle ear, and gastrointestinal tract. Notably, the brain is also vulnerable, despite not being a gas-filled organ. When exposed to BOP, the brain can sustain trauma due to rapid pressure changes transmitted through soft tissue and vascular channels, leading to Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs).

Within the Marine Corps, Artillery Marines are among the most at-risk for these injuries. Over the course of their active-duty careers, they are diagnosed with TBIs at higher rates than Marines in other Military Occupational Specialties. This is not only due to combat exposure, but also to routine blast exposure during weapons training and live-fire operations.

Repeated exposure to blast waves, even those not strong enough to cause immediate, visible injuries, can lead to cumulative neurological damage. These sub-concussive blasts, often experienced during the firing of large-caliber weapons such as the M777 howitzer or HIMARS, may contribute to long-term cognitive and behavioral changes, including memory loss, difficulty concentrating, mood disorders, and sleep disturbances.

What Leaders and Marines Need to Know

- Primary blast injuries are invisible but real. The absence of external wounds does not rule out internal damage.
- Early symptoms of TBI can be subtle. Headaches, confusion, irritability, and fatigue may signal a deeper issue.
- Routine screening and documentation are essential. Marines exposed to frequent blast events should be evaluated and tracked over time.

- Protective measures matter. Proper positioning, hearing protection, and limiting unnecessary exposure to repeated blasts can reduce long-term harm.

TBI and the Link to Veteran Suicide

The long-term consequences of TBIs extend far beyond a Marine's time in uniform. Studies have shown a strong correlation between traumatic brain injury and increased risk of suicide among veterans. Veterans who have sustained a TBI are more likely to experience depression, substance use disorders, and chronic pain, all of which are known risk factors for suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

As the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense continue to address the suicide crisis among veterans, the role of TBI, especially from blast exposure in artillery and combat arms roles, is becoming increasingly clear. Early recognition, treatment, and support for Marines with blast-related TBIs are critical not just for mission readiness, but for saving lives long after the uniform comes off.

Bottom Line: BOP injuries and TBIs are operational hazards that demand command attention, medical vigilance, and sustained care. For Artillery Marines, who are disproportionately affected, this is not just a matter of health, it's a matter of life and death.

REMEMBER:

1. Suicide is not about wanting to die. It's about wanting to end pain – whether it's physical, emotional, or spiritual. It's the end result when a person's coping mechanisms for dealing with pain are overwhelmed.
2. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7/365 by dialing **988** then press 1, texting 838255, or chat online.
3. The Veterans' Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020 provides free emergency suicide care to eligible veterans at any VA or non-VA health care facility. Benefits: Inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, Outpatient care for up to 90 days, Transportation costs, and Follow-up care. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.
4. Firearms contribute to most veteran suicides. Properly securing weapons and removing lethal means is vital to addressing this problem.

5. In spite of the VA and DoD being funded millions of dollars for suicide prevention programs and the recruitment of more mental health providers, veteran suicides remain virtually unchanged in number. Each of us can potentially make a difference with this problem by supporting our fellow veterans who are stressed; by reassuring them that they are not alone in their struggles, that we care about their well-being, and by helping them to seek mental health treatment. Be that friend... “NO ONE BETTER FOR A MARINE TO TURN TO THAN ANOTHER MARINE.”

SUICIDE PREVENTION GUIDELINES

DO NOT COUNSEL THE PERSON YOURSELF; ENCOURAGE THE VETERAN TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP:

- If you are struggling or know someone who is, hope is a reality, and help is available. CALL 1-800-273-8255 and PRESS 1 for toll-free, confidential help 24/7.
- DIAL 988 – the hotline for confidential help 24/7.
- Veteran Crisis Website:

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/#Bethere#NSPW>.

- If you are a veteran or family member who is struggling, you are not alone. Go to Focus Marines Foundation (FOCUS) at <https://focusmarines.org>.
- “BE THE ONE TO STOP ONE” FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE. Find out how here: <https://stopone.info/home>.

Look for signs.

Empathize.

Ask questions.

Remove from danger.

Next steps for more care.



THE OLD BATTERY GUNNY SAYS: LISTEN UP, WARRIORS!

Why are Marines called jarheads?

According to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Marines are called “jarheads” due to the appearance of their “high and tight” haircuts, which some believe resemble a mason jar with a head protruding from the top.

The phrase “jarheads” is also a slang phrase used by Sailors when referring to Marines. The term first appeared as early as World War II and referred to Marines’ appearance when wearing their dress blue uniforms. The high collar on the uniform and the Marine’s head popping out of the top resembled a mason jar. Since World War II, the term has been applied more widely to Marine Corps recruits with their “squared head” appearance because of the close-cropped haircuts. Some Marines refer to the “high and tight” haircut as a “jarhead cut.”

While originally meant as an insult, the nickname has become a source of pride for many Marines and is often used within the Corps, itself.



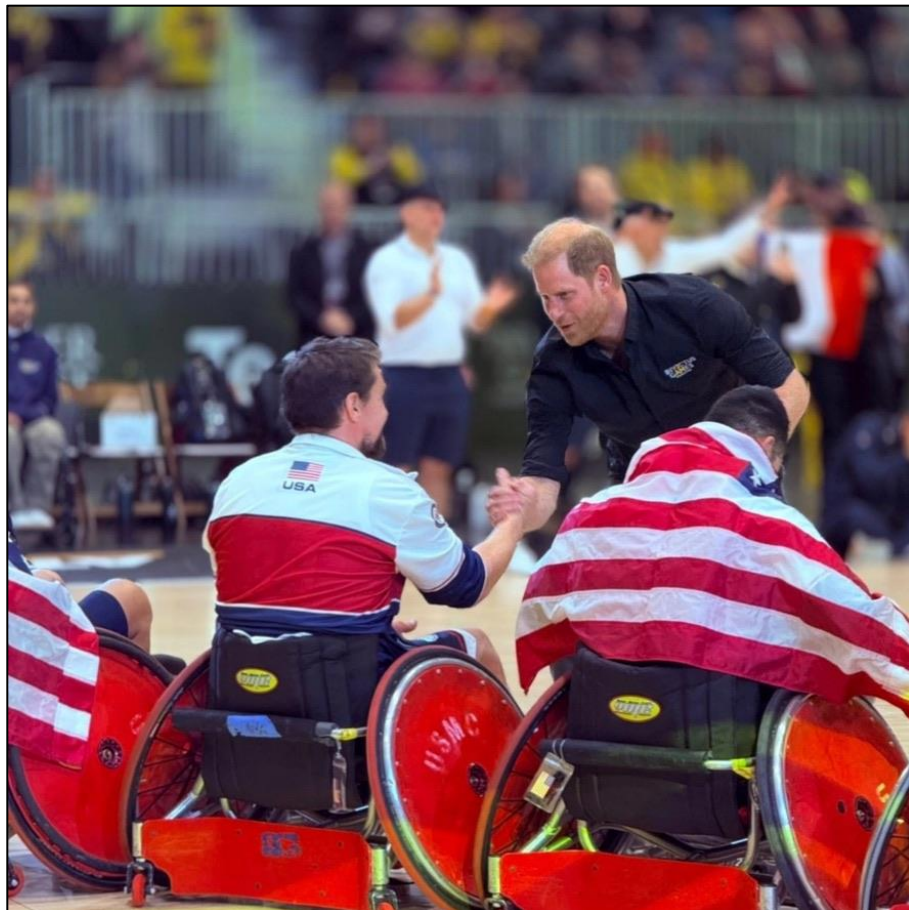
Marines have been called “Jarheads” as far back as World War II. (Canva/Lance Cpl. Antonino Mazzamuto via *The Marine Corps Times*)

Update on Marine Wounded Warrior, Christopher Bryde, Who Represented the USMC at the 2025 Invictus Games in Vancouver BC

By reading previous Newsletters, you will recall that Chris Bryde was blown out of a HUMVEE that hit an IED in Afghanistan in October 2008. He was medevaced and spent four years attached to the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment San Antonio while recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center. He lost one leg right away and, after many surgeries, his other leg was amputated. He now walks on blades. Having earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, Chris is pursuing his Ph.D. at St. Mary's University in Twickenham, England. He competed in the 2025 Invictus Games in Vancouver (Whistler), Canada, February 8 to 16, 2025.

Chris achieved a fantastic result, winning a silver medal in the Biathlon and a bronze in Wheelchair Rugby. A plus was meeting Prince Harry and Jellyroll (see photos) and having his bride, Laura, and his brother, Paul, cheering him on. According to Chris, his "main motivation for competing in the Invictus Games was for his unit, 2/7 – 'Ready for all, yielding to none!'"





In case you missed this from the VA:



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

vapublicaffairs@va.gov

VA to extend caregiver support program eligibility for “legacy” Veterans, caregivers

7/18/2025 11 a.m. ET

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that it will soon propose a rule to extend Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers eligibility for certain Veterans and their family caregivers through Sept. 30, 2028.

The new rule will extend program eligibility for legacy participants, legacy applicants and their family caregivers for three years while VA continues the rulemaking process to refine the program. The extension will ensure that legacy participants and applicants can maintain their benefits and stability during this time.

Legacy participants are Veterans, service members, and their family caregivers who were participating in PCAFC as of Sept. 30, 2020, and legacy applicants are Veterans, servicemembers, and their family caregivers who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and were accepted into the program on or after Oct. 1, 2020.

“Legacy caregivers have helped shape VA’s Caregiver Support Program for many years,” **said VA Secretary Doug Collins**. “This decision underscores VA’s commitment to Veterans and caregivers across the nation and will help provide consistency and stability to nearly 15,000 legacy participants for years to come.”

PCAFC is part of VA’s broader Caregiver Support Program, and offers enhanced clinical support for family caregivers of eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty, and meet other eligibility criteria. PCAFC benefits include education and training, respite care, counseling, technical support, a monthly stipend and access to health care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and certain travel expenses.

The 3d Battalion, 11th Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation is Your Foundation

TIMELY WAYS TO GIVE

Even though most people no longer itemize and take the standard deduction because of the change in the tax code, it is still important to give. No matter how you give, every gift supports the mission of helping Marine Wounded Warriors of every generation. The Federal Tax ID is **46-4240572**.

~ **Online.** If you like the convenience of just a few clicks to make it happen, go to the Donate page of the website <https://3-11marines.org/index.php/donate/> , and click on the yellow Donate button.

~ **By check.** If you're a traditionalist and like good, solid paper that gets the job done, mail your check to:

**3/11 Marines Foundation
106 Wellesley Wood
San Antonio, TX 78231**

~ **Donor-Advised Funds.** Do you have a donor-advised fund? Please put those philanthropic dollars to good use in 2025 on behalf of the 3d Battalion, 11th Marines (3/11 Marines) Foundation. Contact your financial institution or manager.

~ **IRA Distribution.** If you have a traditional IRA and are 73 or older this year, you can make your tax-free, qualified charitable distribution (QCD) while supporting our mission. Visit <https://3-11marines.org/index.php/donate/> to read more by scrolling to the bottom of the page.

Thank you. Semper Fidelis!