



**COMBAT
SOLDIERS
RECOVERY
FUND**

KEEPING *in* TOUCH

Spring 2016

www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org

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If your image of today's soldier is that of the old Hollywood "soldier of fortune" type — a young single man without roots off on an adventure — then you haven't met America's 21st Century soldier. It's time for you to catch up!

Today's soldier is more often than not a family man or a family woman, very often with little ones at home, and the entire family is making a tremendous sacrifice because of their love for our country. Sometimes I think that maybe I should rename our group the Combat Soldiers — and Their Families — Recovery Fund because the spouses and kids all deserve our great thanks and support as well.

Joseph De Prisco may have looked like that old Hollywood stereotype before he met his beautiful wife Andrea in a Wal-Mart parking lot. That's where she caught him laughing at her terrible cockeyed parking job. She returned his smile, and that was that. A few coffee and lunch dates later, they were on their way to the altar.

Out of high school, Joey had signed up with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. On September 11, 2001, he was taking a test at the local DMV and happened to be in uniform. As they watched the World Trade Towers collapse, the proctor said to him, without looking at his results: "You passed. Now you've got some stuff to do."

Joey joined the Navy and trained to be a Combat Medic. He started out on the flight deck of the USS Enterprise and then continued his schooling at the US Fleet Marine Force Service School followed by Special Operations training and then his first overseas deployment: Afghanistan.

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Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund
3804 Williams Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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After plenty of combat there, he returned to the States for additional training and was next deployed to Iraq as part of the high-casualty invasion of Haditha, of the Al Anbar Province. It was there that an IED was detonated by a terrorist directly in front of Joey's Humvee, lifting it into the air and knocking him out for a moment as it hit the ground.

He awoke to the call of "Corpsman UP!" (that's the Marines' way of calling for a medic). Joey was the only medic with the platoon, and after having a comrade move his broken nose back into the right place (!), his training immediately clicked into gear, and still under attack, he began emergency medical treatment on his severely injured colleagues. His unit was later called "The Angels of Anbar" for the sacrifices laid out to ensure that the region became stable and safe.

Joey made a great sacrifice to serve his country far away from home. But he wasn't the only one. Andrea is the other half of that team; a team that late last year doubled in size when Andrea gave birth to handsome twins: Lucca and Dominic. When Joey received a check from CSRF earlier this year, he could think only of his new boys.

As you can see in the picture on the right, they are surrounded by the gifts that your support made possible. We don't know if Andrea's parking has improved, but we do know that she's really good at bringing beautiful babies into the world!

Our service families struggle every day to make sure that their kids have a good life in a country that is safe and free because of the sacrifice that their parents made, for them AND for us. Say thank you with a gift to them and other families who have answered the call. We want these boys — and all of our soldiers' kids — to know how very much we appreciate what their Mom and their Dad have given to us and to our country.



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