



# SPARTAN SOCIETY NEWS\_

Vol. 03, Issue 01  
Spring/Summer 2020





# A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT\_



Dear Spartans,

This month finds us in an interesting place. We are already so excited about the work our Spartans have done and our plans for 2020, and we remain optimistic about how the next few months will look.

In light of measures to keep the coronavirus (COVID-19) from spreading further by encouraging Americans to stay home, we've made the difficult decision to cancel our 4th Annual Spartan Leadership Summit, and have made other proper adjustments to our events calendar to protect our members. We encourage you to visit our website for the latest information on these events.

Regardless of how the next months unfold, we want to inspire you to live out the "If Not Me, Then Who..." ethos wherever you are – in your homes and in your communities, even if that looks a little different than what you're used to. We are currently working on creative solutions to continue our programming and empower veterans and families of the fallen, regardless of what challenges we are experiencing at the national and community levels.

Additionally, we are vastly encouraged by two new exciting program partnerships for 2020. Our Character Does Matter program is now powered by Under Armour Freedom, and Boeing has officially become the founding sponsor for the Spartan Leadership Program (SLP), aimed at developing veteran leaders who serve as change makers in their communities. The SLP will kick off in May and we will be keeping our community informed of developments in this exciting new program.

Findings from the second year of our partnership with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University have also recently been released, evaluating the relationship between participation in TMF initiatives and the well-being of our members. For details on those findings, please see pages 4 and 5.

Despite disruptions to many of our daily lives, we are so thankful for your continuous support and the ways in which you continue to provide the foundation for what we do as an organization. We look forward to continuing working with you to preserve the legacy of our heroes for generations to come.

Yours in service,

Ryan Manion  
President, Travis Manion Foundation



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

### LORI KERN, TIMOTHY KERN MEMORIAL FUND



Lori Kern never imagined she would be running a memorial fund for her son. But now, seeing what it has become, she knows Tim would be proud of the Timothy Kern Memorial Fund and what has been created in his memory. Like many of our families of the fallen, Lori has channeled her grief into service. As a member of our elite Spartan Society, she is impacting the lives of veterans and families of the fallen in her son's name.

Lori lost her son, Tim, in 2006 at the age of 23 in a tragic accident. Tim had the rare ability to make friends and family forget any trouble that they had. He always seemed to know what to say and do to make every minute fun and memorable. Friends attest: you only had to meet Tim once to feel as if you had known him forever.

In speaking to Lori, it's clear that there are many ways in which Tim was just like a TMF Spartan. He saw the best in things and in people. He believed in the power of community. He did not give up in the face of adversity and he made the most out of his life.

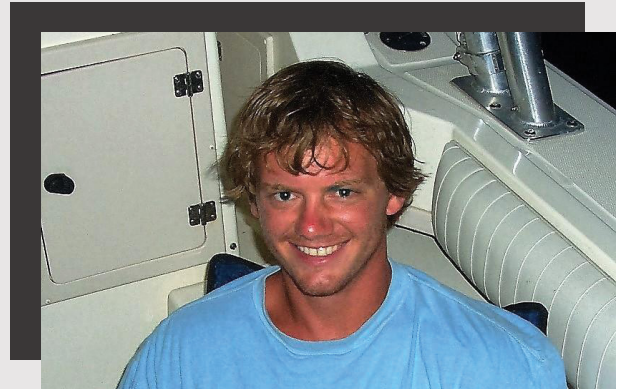
Tim lived simply, always optimistic to see what tomorrow would bring. Anyone who knew him would say he was a laid-back guy except for when it came to sports, where he refused to say no to any workout, team activity, or game. Like many of our Spartans, he brought a "never give up" attitude to every sport he played.

On behalf of the Timothy Kern Memorial Fund, Lori joined Spartan Society last year with a generous donation to TMF in Tim's memory. She first became aware of TMF when Tim's youngest cousins were tasked with selecting the recipient for the fund's 2019 donation. They found the missions of TMF and the Timothy Kern Memorial Fund to be harmonious. Because Tim was a giver at heart, his fund

empowers a different community or family member to donate to a cause that supports a love for sports and the passion, dedication, and fun attitude that he was known for. And for Lori, TMF represents those qualities.

The unique draw of TMF from Lori's perspective, has been how active and diverse the programs and members are and TMF's commitment to supporting those who serve and strengthen our communities. Since that introduction, the Kern family has found many ways they can participate in TMF programs. Many family members from young to old intend to participate in 9/11 Heroes Runs and serve in Operation Legacy service projects in the years to come. It has been a unique opportunity for the Kerns to not just give toward a mission, but to join it in an active and engaged way with other family members.

Together TMF and the Timothy Kern Memorial Fund will continue to work toward creating a nation of purpose-driven individuals and thriving communities built on strong character.



**"HE DID NOT GIVE UP IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY  
AND HE MADE THE MOST OUT OF HIS LIFE."**

**-LORI KERN**

## IVMF: TMF BRIDGING CIVILIAN-MILITARY DIVIDE, INCREASING POSITIVE WELLNESS OUTCOMES

Since 2018, we've partnered with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) to evaluate the relationship between our programs and the well-being, connectedness, resiliency, and overall mental health of our participants.

The second annual survey conducted by IVMF, which resulted in nearly twice as many respondents as in 2019, provided remarkable evidence that our programs are not only making a difference in the lives of our participants; they're helping to foster connection between civilians and military members.

Using a 10-question Brief Inventory of Thriving (BIT) scale, researchers found that civilians experienced similar positive outcomes to veterans and families of the fallen as their participation in TMF initiatives increased.

Even those with absolutely no military connection — 47% of respondents — reported improvements to their health and well-being as a result of their involvement with TMF.

For example, 91% of veterans and 84% of civilians who participated in 3 or more TMF initiatives either agreed or strongly agreed the programs have encouraged them to become more involved in their community.

Although TMF is focused on serving veterans and families of the fallen, 60% of our programs are open to civilians. The diverse demographic makeup of TMF participants, along with their comments, suggest that even though TMF is a Veteran Serving Organization, we are creating a rare and unique connection between civilians and those connected to the military.



“LIFE CHANGING. TMF HAS GIVEN ME A SENSE  
OF PURPOSE AND INSPIRED ME TO SERVE IN  
ALL ASPECTS OF MY LIFE.” - CIVILIAN



“TMF helps build  
necessary - and often  
rare - bridges between  
veteran and civilian  
communities.”

-Navy & Marine Corps Veteran

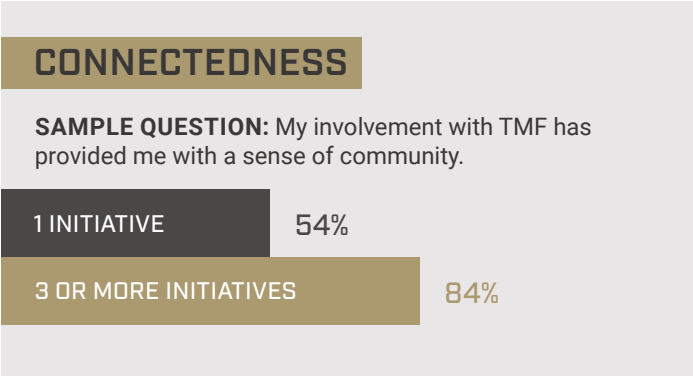
# GREATER PARTICIPATION, GREATER OUTCOMES

## FOR VETERANS, FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN

Most notably, the survey found that the more involved our veterans and families of the fallen are with our initiatives, the greater their outcomes are with regard to well-being and mental health.

Veterans and survivors who have participated in 3 or more initiatives reported significantly greater improvements to their feelings of satisfaction related to their emotional and mental health and their sense of community, as well as a greater sense of purpose in their lives compared with participants of only one TMF initiative.

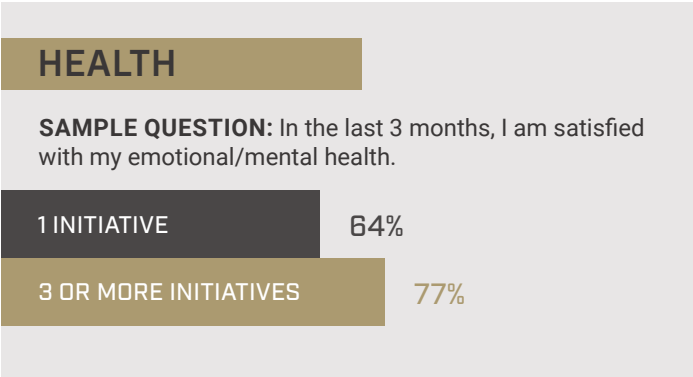
### Significant Increases in Connectedness with Increased Participation



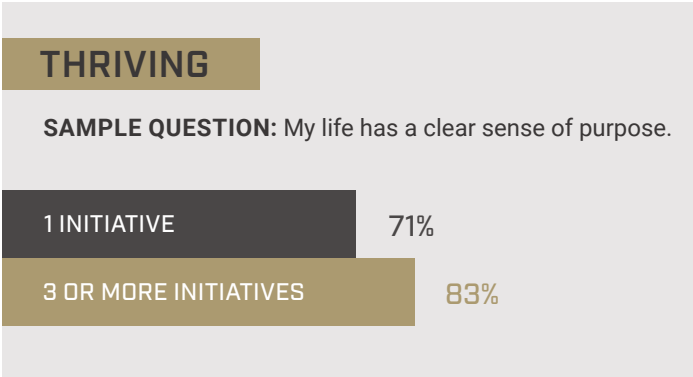
### Significant Increases in Overall Resiliency with Increased Participation



### Significant Increases in Emotional/Mental Health Score with Increased Participation



### Significant Increases in Purpose with Increased Participation



More so than any other group, CDM Veteran Mentors — who are often the most involved in TMF initiatives — experienced even greater positive outcomes in categories of Connectedness, Thriving, Health and Resiliency.

- Compared to 60% of non-CDM Veteran Mentors, 87% of CDM Veteran Mentors agreed or strongly agreed that their involvement with TMF has provided them a sense of community.
- Compared to 67% of non-CDM Veteran Mentors, 82% of CDM Veteran Mentors were satisfied or extremely satisfied with their emotional/mental health.

“[TMF] improves my sense of well-being. TMF empowers me to take initiative to be innovative and collaborate with my community to make it a better place for me, my family and future generations.”

- MARINE CORPS VETERAN



# TMF EVENTS RECAP



## ARMY NAVY TAILGATE

TMF hosted its annual Army-Navy tailgate ahead of the big game at Lincoln Financial Field on Saturday, December 14th. It was a fun day in South Philly, filled with music, drinks, delicious food and the opportunity for thousands of Spartans to come together to celebrate this storied rivalry.



## “IF NOT ME, THEN WHO...” GALA 2019

Military leaders, veterans, families of fallen heroes, inspired civilians, and corporate partners gathered for the 8th Annual “If Not Me, Then Who...” Gala at the Union League in Philadelphia on December 12th. It was a night to recognize the hardworking men and women who make up our strong Spartan community, who serve a cause greater than themselves and, by doing so, inspire others. TMF recognized Boeing for the 2019 Community Leadership Award and was proud to announce the company will be funding the Spartan Leadership Program, focusing on building powerful veteran leaders in our community. Other honorees in attendance included Guest of Honor, Lt. Gen. James Pasquarette, 2019 Character Does Matter Scholarship recipient Adam Dumont, and 2019 “If Not Me, Then Who...” Award winner and GORUCK Founder, Jason McCarthy.



## OPERATION LEGACY

Nearly 8,000 Spartans of all ages organized, led, and participated in more than 200 community service projects in 2019 as part of Operation Legacy. All across the country, they united in selfless service and addressed their communities’ critical needs. Each project was dedicated to a specific fallen hero to carry on his or her legacy of service. During Fall Operation Legacy season, we saw thousands of Spartans join together to serve, from a cemetery cleanup in Pottstown, PA, honoring fallen hero Navy SEAL Cmdr. Job Wilson Price, to an event to feed and clothe local Southern California residents experiencing homelessness in honor of Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Zapp, USMC. We are excited for the start of a spectacular Operation Legacy season this spring and TMF is committing to returning to communities and serving year after year for a lasting impact.



# SPARTAN SOCIETY EVENT CALENDAR

In light of federal and local measures in recent weeks aimed at limiting spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), TMF has delayed several of our events. As more information regarding rescheduled dates becomes available we are committed to sharing those with you. We also encourage you to visit [travismanion.org](http://travismanion.org) for the latest information.



## 13TH ANNUAL 1ST LT TRAVIS MANION MEMORIAL EVENT

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020 | DOYLESTOWN, PA

The 13th Annual 1stLt Travis L. Manion Memorial Event, to commemorate the outstanding life of Travis Manion, is scheduled for Monday, April 27th, 2020 at the Doylestown Country Club in Doylestown, PA. It will be a memorable event that includes the "Team Travis" golf outing, lunch, cocktails, dinner, an auction, and prizes. The event benefits our mission to empower veterans and families of the fallen to develop character in future generations.

## SPARTAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MAY - NOVEMBER, 2020 | NATIONWIDE

Aimed at supporting veterans by leading them through a comprehensive training experience, TMF will begin its inaugural Spartan Leadership Program in May. The 7-month program, sponsored by Boeing, will kick off with a leadership expedition through the mountains of Colorado, continue with online curriculum around leadership and personal development, and culminate in a graduation ceremony in November. The program is aimed at empowering our most dedicated veterans to become change makers and leaders in their communities.



## BBQ ON THE BAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020 | SAN DIEGO, CA

The annual BBQ on the Bay will take place on July 1st aboard the USS Midway at 6:30 pm. This is a chance for us to celebrate our local TMF Spartan community with a fun evening of food, drinks, and great company. This event is open to anyone 16 and older.

Space is limited, so please RSVP at [donate.travismanion.org/BBQ2020](http://donate.travismanion.org/BBQ2020) by June 22, 2020 to guarantee your spot.





# TRAVIS MANION FOUNDATION

164 East State Street  
Doylestown, PA 18901

## SPARTAN SOCIETY

Spartan Society is Travis Manion Foundation's elite recognition program to honor and thank major donors who advance our mission through generous financial support. Spartan Society members are individuals, companies, foundations, and independent fundraisers who donate a cumulative \$1,000 or more within TMF's fiscal year, April 1 – March 31.

Our critical work would not be possible without you. Thank you for your continued support.

### SPARTAN SOCIETY BENEFITS

- Invites to exclusive regional Spartan Society meetings and receptions
- Recognition in annual "If Not Me, Then Who..." Gala program book
- Name recognition in TMF's Annual Report
- Spartan Society Seasonal Newsletter
- Additional perks specific to your membership level

### GIVING LEVELS

BRONZE	\$1,000 – \$2,499
SILVER	\$2,500 – \$4,999
GOLD	\$5,000 – \$9,999
EMERALD	\$10,000 – \$19,999
PLATINUM	\$20,000 – \$49,999
TITANIUM	\$50,000 – \$99,999
DIAMOND	\$100,000 – \$249,999
CHARACTER CHAMPION	\$250,000 – \$999,999
"IF NOT ME, THEN WHO..."	\$1,000,000+

Visit [travismanion.org/spartansociety](http://travismanion.org/spartansociety) for more information on giving levels and perks.