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Wounded Warrior Project Proposal

There is no misconception about the role our government has taken in helping the rest of the world with their problems. When we think about how fast problems can potentially spread from the rest of the world to our nation, it kind of makes sense. However, for those people who think otherwise, let’s do a little reality check. In 2001 our country was attacked by terrorist, which affected millions of people, our economy, and our security infrastructure. How did our government respond? They involved our military in hostel areas far away from our own country. Many may say, “Well that just wasn’t necessary.” As much as we can all sit back and debate how we could have handled the problem, the only thing that is certain is the past cannot be changed. What we have now is an opportunity to be more diplomatic on how we handle the future. Giving back to those who were injured risking their lives fighting for our freedom should be a priority regardless of how anyone feels our government handled the country’s affairs.

It was a shame to think of all the soldiers returning from Vietnam who did not have the mental or physical support they needed, whether it came from organizations or the public. Is that how we want today’s American brothers and sisters to live after they have put their lives on the line for us? As a nation, we have grown, changed and adapted into a more modern way of thinking. The American people have finally conceded to the idea there are things out there that are bigger than themselves. We have once again answered John F. Kennedys famous calling, “My Fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

In 1992 John Melia, a Marine, was wounded in Somalia in a helicopter crash. Melia established the Wounded Warrior Project in 2002, and has dedicated himself to ensuring our wounded servicemen and women do not get left by the waist side (*Prolog.org).* The mission of the Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower our wounded warriors. The objective of the program is to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation’s history. According to Melia, the purpose of the project is to raise awareness and enlist the public’s assistance for the needs of injured service members, to help injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members (*WWP Inc.*).

The Wounded Warrior Project has 19 different programs for wounded veterans which range from Combat Stress Recovery, to Physical Health and Wellness, and Warriors to Work. They have dedicated themselves to ensuring full means of compensations are being made for those who have given up so much. What is even better is they have made it incredibly easy for anyone to contribute. Whether you’re the type who likes to donate money or contribute time, there is something for each. The Wounded Warrior Project is involved with events all over the world designed to contribute to physical wellness. Events include cycling and marathon fundraisers, and Tough Mudders to help promote team building and inspire hope for those who have sustained life changing physical impairments. The program does not just reach out to soldiers by offering inspiration, but provides educational support and employment opportunities as well.

By seeing that the program provides educational and employment assistance, proves the WWP definitely understands the potential of this type of support. According to a UOP Press Release, in 2011 the University of Phoenix and the Wounded Warrior Project teamed up to deliver 10 full time scholarships to wounded service members. The Warriors to Work program which is designed to provide career guidance and workshops to wounded service members, and their families or caregivers, in the attempt to have them re-enter the civilian work force. Being a well developed program has to encompass many different aspects of contributions. The Wounded Warrior Project is set up and tailored to meet the needs of the individual veteran’s and to help them succeed during and after recovery.

In today’s society there are many efforts being made to a variety of different charities, organizations, or causes, of which many are very noble. Try and think what your life would be like if you lived in constant fear. How would that make you feel? Our military is comprised of many brave men and women, who have volunteered to serve our country, to ensure that the people of this great nation have a chance to enjoy their freedoms. The Wounded Warrior Project has found a way to give back to those who were injured fighting to maintain our way of life. Is there a cause nobler than that?

Nobody is asking you to give up supporting any causes you already contribute to. Nor are you being asked to choose one over another. If anything, I simply pose the question, can you support something greater than yourself? Many of you already do. Those people realize that, “Just because you can’t be there physically, doesn’t mean that you can’t show support.” For that, I commend you. However, if you have never given to an organization for any cause, or you have never given to the Wounded Warrior Project, please consider doing so. I would like you to think about this: Freedom isn’t free. As an active duty service member myself for the last 14 years, and working as a military liaison in a hospital alongside many of those soldiers who were wounded, I can promise you there is nothing that means more to us than the support we ascertain from the American people. Just hearing the words, “Thank you for your service” reminds us why we fight for our country, even when times are rough. Imagine what you are doing for a Veteran when you acknowledge their sacrifices and can do for them by supporting the Wounded Warrior Project.

As we reflect on ourselves, contemplate how we choose to be involved in today’s society. Think about what support you would want or need, by placing yourself in the shoes of just one of the over 50,000 service members that have been wounded since the conflicts have started in 2001, hard to do right? My greatest hope is that you never have to understand what it is like to sustain with such injuries. However, one thing is clear, and that is you don’t have to understand the cause of pain to help the person in need. Get in touch with the Wounded Warrior Project today, and help change a veterans life.

Works Cited

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