

Stop Soldier Suicide Fundraisers

Press Release

Local Residents & Businesses Donate \$83,500 to Stop Soldier Suicide.

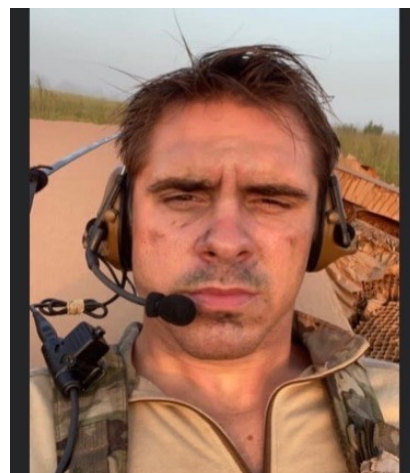
The 2nd Annual Capt. Austin Murga St James golf outing was held on Sept. 7th and raised \$55,000 to support Stop Soldier Suicide. The event was held on the 2nd year anniversary of his death due to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) suicide.

Ten days later, the Cape Fear Chapter of Blue Star Mothers, raised \$28,500 and are also donating all proceeds to Stop Soldier Suicide. The event titled *Banding Together 4 Blue Star Mothers* featured a unique 3-band format.

Sadly, over 120,000 veterans have died by suicide since 2001 compared to 6,817 service member deaths in Iraqi and Afghanistan combined. Alarming, PTSD alone accounts for 20 deaths a day! Stop Soldier Suicide is addressing this national crisis by providing free and confidential counseling, personal assigned mentors, long term and follow up care, and multiple referral resources including VA assistance, horse therapy, service dogs, financial assistance and so much more.

Captain Murga proudly served with the US Army, Ranger Airborne Regiment. Upon his return from a tour in Afghanistan, he encountered forced quarantining due to the COVID-19 lockdown, denying him with much needed social assimilation. Austin's proud parents, Gay & Kevin, are now dedicating their life to bringing much-needed awareness to both PTSD and this under-funded crisis.

Both Stop Soldier Suicide and the Cape Fear Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America are 501(c)3 organizations.



Capt. Austin Murga

