



Special Edition

CIGARS FOR WARRIORS

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From the Board

After consulting with sponsors, city officials, and we've made the difficult decision to cancel this year's CATS Fest. Our primary concerns are health risks, and financial uncertainties during this time. We ask for your understanding, and hope you are looking forward to Memorial Day weekend 2021 when we can once again gather and celebrate! We want to thank everyone for standing by us, especially those who have asked to have their 2020 tickets forwarded to next year's festival. If you have questions, or would like to request a refund/have your ticket applied for 2021, please contact event organizers at: <https://catsfestival.com/contact>. One of our favorite truisms is, "There's no better community found than in the cigar world!" Truth!

Stay Positive!

Ideas on How We Can Help Each Other

Below are a few great ideas some of our Donation Centers have come up with to deal with temporary closures and "social distancing" issues. Humor and creativity go a long way in keeping our community connected. We found some great ones to share!



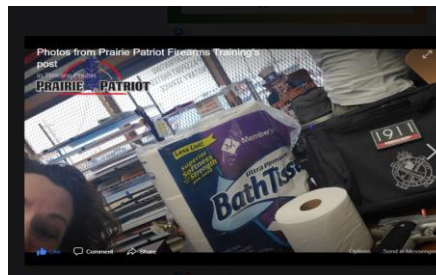
(L) **Cigar Hustler (Deltona, FL)**: "Lounge Area Closed!"

(R) **Battleground South Cigar Lounge (Columbia, TN)**: "Refusing to shave until we can open again. In the meantime, we will be out delivering your cigars—so get those orders in!"

(L) **Industrial Cigar Co (Frisco, TX)** is now offering 'quarantine kits' in 3-day, 1-week, and 2-week size bags. Brilliant!



(R) **Prairie Patriot Firearms Training (Mandan, ND)**: "We're on a roll!! With each gun purchase, Patriots receive a roll of TP!"



Please consider starting a 'tab' at your shop, so they'll have some money coming in while closed. Feel free to use this gift certificate! [Post it to their page, so others can follow your lead. Include amount, and Venmo, PayPal, check, etc. indication.]

Please do not hesitate to contact Cigars for Warriors if there is anything we can do to help during this crisis. We appreciate your ongoing support, and want you to know we are here if you need us! Remember to check on your shops. Post to their wall—call them—let them know you appreciate them, post pix, leave a comment. Businesses are taking a hit, so let them know you care! Thank you,



The CFW Board of Directors

The Front Line

Tribute, by Michael DeSerio

Cigars for Warriors was crucial to the morale and happiness of my Platoon on our deployment to Wardak, Afghanistan in March of 2013. I contacted the organization prior to my deployment just to see how it would work and they were extremely helpful.

The deployment was extremely tough. We were positioned on a combat outpost called COP Sultan Kheyl. The location of the COP was vital to the security of Highway 1 running from Forward Operating Base (FOB) Bagram; down south to FOB Ghazni and beyond. We had a vast area of operation—more than what a single Company of Infantrymen could cover.



Throughout the deployment we endured many hardships, and every mission we came home unscathed we celebrated with a cigar. Thanks to Cigars for Warriors we always had premium sticks to celebrate our safe arrival back on the COP.

Not all days ended well though. On June 1st 2013, Ray, "Ray-Ray" Ramirez was killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations. Ray always enjoyed a good

Drew Estates Kuba Kuba, Blondie, or any one of the varieties of amazing sticks they produce.

Yesterday, I received a message from Hope, who is Ray's Stepmother. She sent me a picture from the deployment where Ray took a picture with a certain cigar. Hope asked if I knew the brand and type of cigar. Not being a connoisseur like I know the CFW crew is, I sent Tom McLune a message and asked if he could help identify the cigar for me. Within 24 hours, Tom responded with the answer—an Acid Ming Dynasty.



I haven't even contacted Tom since 2013, but through the shared love of cigars and taking care of our Soldiers, it was like we hadn't ever stopped communicating. I also contacted Alaine DiBenedetto and she aided in the search as well. Thanks to both of you for your help and dedication to the troops.

Special Commendation

Fully Loaded™

We are proud to announce our newest sponsor! *Fully Loaded™* offers a wide variety of tobacco-free dips and pouches, as well as, full & half-strength. If you're a dipper, check out their flavors—bourbon, peach, mint, wintergreen, and more. "Proudly made in the USA with all food-grade ingredients. Take your pick of long cut or pouches, available in full, half, and zero nicotine strength." <https://fullyloadedchew.com/>



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