

# PB ABBATE ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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### FOREWORD

The military prepared us to fight on the battlefield, but recent events in Afghanistan have taught us that you can win the battles and still lose the war. There's also a war on the homefront that we're losing. In 2020, the casualties of this war at home came in a wave. Three of my Marines died by suicide in rapid succession; I needed to find out why. Scouring through the annual VA Suicide Reports, I discovered the leading proximal causes of veteran suicide were feelings of disconnectedness and isolation. Tellingly, non-combat veterans are 80% more likely to die by suicide than combat veterans. With a deeper understanding of the problem, I shifted my focus and searched for organizations fostering connectedness among veterans.

The good news is that for those who've sacrificed the most - our wounded and special forces veterans - there are incredible resources at their disposal. There are also terrific clinical programs for veterans suffering from severe PTSD and addiction. It made me proud that our Nation has rallied around these individuals. But many of these programs were intentionally exclusive and required certain boxes to be checked, or a crisis to manifest before veterans could "qualify" for services. Disability or disorder defined the "broken veteran" narrative, and I wanted to change that narrative.

I struggled to understand why, if there's no correlation between combat and veteran suicide, available resources were so restrictive. Why weren't we taking a more inclusive and proactive approach that would keep us left of bang? I called my old squad leader, a Gold Star Sister, and a Marine sniper who served with Sgt Matt Abbate. We launched Patrol Base Abbate with the intent to create a space where every person who has served or is actively serving could connect, form a community, and find purpose. We secured a 350-acre ranch in the mountains of Montana to serve as our Patrol Base, where members of Patrol Base Abbate are afforded a free-of-cost opportunity to return to base (RTB). It was important to have a physical space where every man and woman who has served can claim and feel like they belong. The Patrol Base does not belong to one individual; rather, it is a communal space to rest and refit.

This year we brought over 100 veterans to the Patrol Base and executed five retreats, which allow veterans who share a common interest to connect and form a tribe. The diverse members of our interest-based clubs experienced the healing power of the outdoors and formed lasting bonds around a campfire. Our Hunting Club was first out of the chute, followed by our Book Club, Fight Club, Strength Club, and Music Club. The pillars of our retreats include the healing effect from time spent outdoors in nature; improving the Patrol Base through a local service project; and connecting around the campfire. The culminating event occurs when each member fills a sandbag dedicated to someone or something as a way of showing that they are committed to honoring the fallen by living a life of service back in their homes and local communities.

We launched 43 local chapters in our first year. We have leadership from every branch of service walking point in locations from San Diego to New York. These local chapters provide a pathway of community and purpose through continued service.

In 2022, we will reprise our annual Abbate WOD fundraiser to honor and share the story of our namesake, Sgt Matt Abbate. Over 200 veterans and service members will experience the restorative hard work and healing of the Patrol Base in Montana. We will continue to elevate the veteran narrative through service in our communities and we plan to launch our "Warrior's Night" community engagements around the country.

Thousands of veterans joined us in our first year, and we are just getting started. Every month, in communities around the country, Patrol Base Abbate connects veterans and builds strong tribes. At Patrol Base Abbate, anyone who raised their right hand and swore an oath to something greater than themselves has a seat at our table. To all those who've supported our financial needs as we built this organization, thank you...we would not be here without you. We're so thankful for everyone willing to fill a sandbag and walk point...just as Sgt Abbate did.

Return to Base,

Major Thomas Schueman, USMC Patrol Base Abbate

# MISSION

### MISSION

To honor the legacy of Sergeant Matthew Abbate by providing warriors a space to recalibrate inside the wire and community to thrive outside the wire.

> "YOU ARE NOW ENTERING FRIENDLY LINES"

# HIGHLIGHTS



**6** Retreats

Serving over 60 different Veterans from all across the country



### **43 Chapters**

To foster connectedness through a mutually beneficial network



### 1500+ Veterans

Members consist of men and women from every branch of the Military



### PROGRAMS



# Return to Base (RTB)

As one of the three components of PB Abbate, the RTB Program is an opportunity for our members to come together as a community to refit and connect in Thompson Falls, Montana. Typically, these programs are built around one or our interest-based clubs (e.g., Book, Strength, or Fight Club). The programming is led by the club captain and supported by PB Abbate staff.

### **PROGRAMS (cont.)**

# Local Chapters

We currently have over 43 active local chapters and are growing rapidly. By establishing chapters that act as rally points of PB Abbate, we build a sense of community and share skills that carry us outside the wire. We are establishing chapters in major cities across the country to help our members serve their communities and foster connectedness through a mutually beneficial network.

## **PROGRAMS (cont.)**

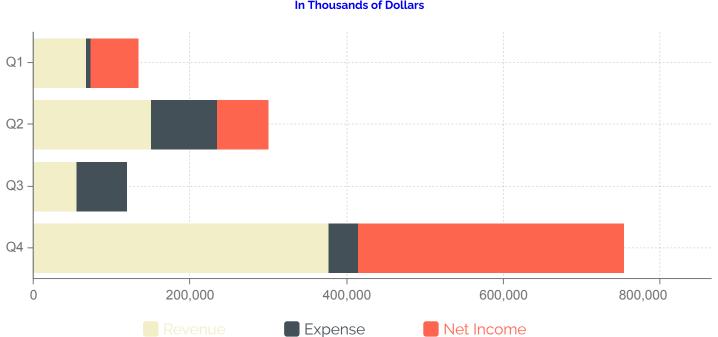


# **Online Community**

When our members can't attend a retreat or chapter event together, we have built an online platform to keep lines of communication open 24/7. These forums are structured similarly to our clubs and chapters, and allow our members to reach one another at any point in time. To date, we have reached over 25,000 individual

veterans.

# FINANCIAL IMPACT



Fiscal Year 2021 In Thousands of Dollars

**2000+** VETERANS CONNECTED THROUGH PB ABBATE PROGRAMMING \$600K

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

# **2021 KEY VOLUNTEERS**

Executive Director - Tom Schueman Chief of Staff - Dave Williams **General Counsel - Ted Massey VP Finance - Joe Alexander Director, Accounting - Sandra Spencer Director, Fundraising - Mick Denner Donor Relations - Kate Fox** Director, Marketing - Michaela White Secretary - Trey Humphrey Director, Member Experience - Emma Thompson **Regional Director - Kolbe Grell** Club Coordinator - Jason Gaver **Director, IT** - Kallman Perry Camp Commandant - John Torres

# 2020-2021 DONORS

Patrol Base Abbate is grateful for all the generous support from those who believed enough in our mission to help us complete our first full, very successful year...thank you for helping us build a space where every veteran who has ever served can **return to base**.

\$200,000 +

The Michelle Lemay Philanthropy Fund

\$40,000 +

The R and C Nevins Fund

\$10,000 +

#### \$20,000 +

The Beth C. and Henry E. Adams Family Foundation The Sally Springs Klar Philanthropic Fund

\$5,000 +

Brad & Becky Johnson Charitable Fund Big Fish Foundation Goons Up Gary McKitterick August & Nancy Olivo Jonathan Parker

#### \$2,000 +

Crossfit Joshua Tree Northern Provisions Steven Odebralski Kenneth Fiorelli AANW Holdings, LLC Brian Watson

\$2,500 +

Jordan & Sarah Halverson Mission Essential Gear Company New England Wounded Veterans Inc. Anonymous Vietnam Veteran

### \$1,000 +

Burlington Capital Foundation Charitable Realty LLC The Denner Family FMDA, LLC Lauren Fite Reese Grebe Robert Guerin Tony Haberer Jordan Halverson Luke Garrison Foundation Marine Corps League - LCpl John J. Van Gyzen Det 1285 Nakoma Strong Health & Fitness Center

Mary Nihart The Smitherman Family

## 2020-2021 DONORS

#### \$25 to \$999

Alexis Abbate Bob Abbate Maria Abbate Doaa Aboul-Hosn Matt Ackerman Matt Ahern Dan Alexander Joseph Alexander Robert Allison Juan Alonso Pedro & Mary Katherine Alonso Michael Alvarado Cynthia Alverez Kristine Andali Peter Arend Dwight Armstrong Redmond Barnes Katherine Barton Michael Baumgarten Michael Bettis Holt Biedermann James Binion Nathan Bishop Dennis Blatchford Blake Boelke Kevin Bradford Joshua Brady Tyler Brady Sam Bray Beth Brown Daniel Brennan Latah Brooks Chris Brownfield Lesle Bundy Gregory Burghardt Mike Burke Rebecca Burkhardt William Burns Mitchell Butin Mark Calderon Charles Campbell Dennis Campos Jonathan Carden Joe Celio Peter Cerquitella Christopher Chacon Lee Cherian Matthew Chigas Brandon Childers Chris Sipe Dom Chumich Esther Chung Beverly Cihan Alexis Ciurczak Adrienne Cleverly Maribeth Collins Mary Angela Collins Michael Collins Laura Coogan Barbara Cooney Samantha Cornelison Justin Creedon Cathy Cronin-Pastrano Ryan Crum Neil Cummins Luke Dalton Christopher Davis Scott Davis Jonathan & Amber Decker Elizabeth Dees Paul DeMasi Wilson & Christina Deming The Denner Family Peter Devine Trevor Devine Daniel Dewit Katherine Dexter Drew Devoung Michael Dillenbeck Evan DiMartinis Cody Dolloway Zachary Dotson Daniel Douglas Victoria Dow Colton Ducken Brandon Dudley Jill Dugan Nate Dunchie Jodee Dunham Kimberly DuPont Nicholas Efstathiou Justin Eggen Jordan Elliot Meredith Elliot Chris Ellis Lyndsy Eltman Drew Emmel Alexander Emmert Barry Everett Ralph Fabrizio Mary Fillipini Laurence Finney Donovan Foster SPB Foundation Carol Fox Courtney Fox Kathleen Fox Oliver Fried Gale Friedman James Galvin Jesus Garcia Robert Gautier Tom Gearen Madison Gilbertson Meghan Gill Michael Giuliano Nathan & Kate Gladdin Samuel Glanzer Dylan Godlewski Steve Goedert Russ Goodman Tyler Graham Justin Graves Thomas Greubel Steve Griffis William Grimes Organic Grit Kevin Guillen Carter Gunn Michael Hall Charles Hankins Jeff Haspel Daniel Heaslet Tyler Heisey Patrol Base Hero Jennifer Herring Rodney Hilderbrandt James Hill Brad Hillgren Carol Himiston Jack Hitchcock Andrew Hocking Stephen Holowesko Vern Horst Jilean Houck Cynthia Hubach Jeremy Hudson John Hummeldorf Richard Hur Imagine Nation Brewing Co. Daniel Incorvaia Katie Jacobs Jessika Janusewski Sam Johnson Jeff Jonas Christine Jones Leilani Jones Michael Jones Daniel Kalashian Mia Kang Austin Kastelic Evan Kasulones Nate Kavakich Eileen Keenan Kelley Klassen Patrick Kendall Myles

## 2020-2021 DONORS

#### \$25 to \$999

Kerr Sabeena Khan Zachery Kiddy Aaron Kirk Ralph Klein Dean Knudson Matthew Kornegay Kathleen Kosa John Kristen Andy Laberee Laura Lakin Samuel Laliberte Jay Landau Diane Laursen Jojo Leestma Cody Lefever David Lehnertz Madeline Lewandowski Amber Lewis Michelle Lewis Trinni Liang Sallie Lim Seth Lloyd Jeannemarie Long Kathleen Loucks Daniel Lynch Elizabeth Lynch Beth Lynk Mary MacFarland Casey Mahan Sean Mahoney Ana Maria Major Christopher Mamaux Natasha Mariano Jamie Marquis Ann Martin Shawn Martin Luis Martinez Andrew Mase Milena Mase Ted Massey Christine & John Matusek Kyle Mayo William McClay Katherine McCormack Philip McCulloch Alex McDonald Michael McDonald Robroy McDonald Terry McLaren Daniel McNiell Linda McOuady DD214 Memes Julio Mercado Alec Merchanf Alicia Meredith Joe Messina Alexander Mikhailovsky Natalie Mitchell Travis Montgomery Meryl Muldoon Kathryn Neff Rebekah Nevins Jacob Nihart Johnny Nikmard GJ Nolan Marian O'Brien Michelle Ovesey Shane O'Connor Bryant Patrick Martin Paull Benson Payne Kyle Payson Jason Pecho Aimee Peralta Gail Persichilli Nicolas Pfanstiel Grace Picard Joshua Pickering Gary Pickett John Pinnix Atreyu Plendl Allen Pollard Mark Pollock Max Polster Lori Popadak William Porter Ross Pospisil Maura Pratt Colleen Protzman Richard Protzmann Mirna Ramos Genesis Rapalo Tate Ratcliffe Selwyn Reid Jacob Reimche Tyler Rivers Robbie O'Brien James Robertson Doc Robinson Drew Robinson Douglas Robison Maria Rodriguez Mike Rodriguez Liam Rossiter Nichola Ruffo Edward Rusinowski Larry Rynor Aaron Sanford Linda Schaver Peter Schink Jake Schneible Joshua Schneider Danny Schooley Thomas Schueman Eileen Schunke Brett Scull Kevin Sellen Michael Sellers Jeff Shaw Garrett Sheehan Mason Siebe Andrea Sim Samuel Simmons Elizabeth Sinclair Kathleen Sinclair Joe Singer Jacob Sipple Brittany Smith Crawford Smith John Smith Lukess Soss Sandra Spencer Robert Spino Eric Stainbrook Aaron Stairhime Kamil Stasiulewicz Cary Stegman Matt Strange Jack Sullivan Nicholas Sutton Kacy Tellessen Skylar Tevepaugh Sean Thiesing Khalilah Thomas Emma Thompson Sheila Thompson Philip Treglia Anne Troy Jorden Trythall Cory Turner Joanne Underwood John U'ren Diane Valenzuela Stephanie Vargo Leslie Vargo-Smith Edward Vates Joseph Ventura Andrew Vernon Nicholas Vertlieb ChugForVets Hector Vicente Philip Vine Janice Walden Sterling Walden Mikaela Waldup Chris Wallace Christopher Waltham Jake Walther Kelly Weber Mark Weeks Marc Weinreich David Wells Kirsten White Adam Wilburn CJ Williams Martha Williams Peter Wilson Eric Wish Jessica Wolfe Maryann Yaldoo Robert Yanez David Yazbek Amelia Yeager Christopher Zimmer Thomas Zulanas Daniel Zuniga Daniel Zyski



