

# THE UHL SCOUTING REPORT

The official newsletter for United Heroes League, a non-profit organization that keeps military kids healthy and active through sports.



**UNITED HEROES**  
LEAGUE

## YOUR 2019 ALL-STAR HEROES

### 4 Service Members, 4 Military Kids, 1 Incredible Weekend

The NHLPA, a longtime supporter of United Heroes League, approached UHL last fall asking how they could help create an experience of a lifetime for our service members. We came together to create a campaign called “Your All-Star Hero”. This campaign was created to recognize four military members from different regions of North America who have shown tremendous sacrifice & heroic valor, and bring them to the 2019 All-Star Game for a once in a lifetime experience.

Back in December of 2018, hockey fans from across the United States and Canada were asked to submit their All-Star Hero, a serviceman or woman who they think deserves to be recognized for their service to their country. Hundreds of amazingly valiant stories flooded our office making the selection for just 4 All-Star Heroes very difficult. After days of reading each entry, four were selected; Sergeant (Ret.) Richard Silva USMC, Lieutenant Colonel Darrin Janisch ARMY, Sergeant (Ret.) Michael Brewer ARMY, and Master Corporal Stephen Giza Canadian Forces, became your 2019 All-Star Heroes. They were informed of their selection with the help of NHLPA members and UHL Ambassadors Brent Burns, Jake Gardiner, Matt Hendricks and Vinni Lettieri.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, these chosen Heroes, along with their child, met in San Jose where they would receive a red carpet

experience all weekend long. From eating and sharing a hotel with the players, being interviewed by major networks, and attending all the special events of the weekend, this was nothing short of an extraordinary experience. With all the attention aside, what really struck these servicemen was how the players had so much respect for them and what they do. They were being approached by their own heroes who would thank them for their service... which was pretty special.

“The support that the players have for the military, the support they have for their country, they have just been absolutely fantastic,” MCpl. Stephen Giza said, reflecting on his interaction with the players.

“It’s beyond a dream come true. I can’t even, I still can’t describe it,” said Sgt. Michael Brewer, trying to find the words to describe this incredible weekend.

It was a weekend these families will never forget. Huge thank you to the NHLPA for making this dream come to life for these deserving servicemen. Most importantly, thank you to our chosen Heroes. Their courage and sacrifice are the reason we do what we do here at UHL. To watch video footage and the weekend recap, head over to our [website](#).



Presented by Arby's

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# INTRODUCING UHL OUTDOORS

United Heroes League is proud to introduce a new program called UHL Outdoors! UHL Outdoors was created by former Minnesota North Star Steve Payne, to bring the great outdoors to our heroes and their children. We are taking Service Members and their children on the water for a fishing experience they won't forget! Following our kickoff event on March 23<sup>rd</sup> down in Texas, there will be 8 additional nationwide fishing events --coast to coast-- for Service Members and one of their children. Celebrity guests will be in attendance fishing with them to help make this day even more

memorable. Service Members are welcome to apply to attend these fishing events at no cost to them!

At each event there will be 10 teams made up of a service member, their child (ages 8-16), a celebrity athlete, a professional fishing guide, and a sponsor.

"After eight years of directing a national fishing event for the veterans of another fishing nonprofit, I felt confident that I could transfer that experience into a year-round, multi-event program for my favorite charity, UHL. Thus, UHL Outdoors was created

for the purpose of taking some of our member families fishing with professional athletes as another way to thank them for their sacrifice and service to this great nation. The participating families can expect a day full of fishing, sports talk and memories to last a lifetime!" Payne said of his creation of UHL outdoors.

Each fishing event has the space for 10 team sponsors and 1 title sponsor. If your company or someone you know might be interested in becoming a sponsor, give us a call at the office or visit our [website](#) for more information.



## TEXAS EVENT RECAP

Our first ever UHL Outdoors fishing event took place on March 23<sup>rd</sup> down in Palestine, Texas! It was a very successful and fun event that had all participants happily catching some fish. The day consisted of fishing for largemouth bass with professional fishing guides, chatting with Dallas Stars Alumni, Service Members telling stories of their time in the military and some great food to finish off the day!

The military father-son duo that won the competition was Ricky and Ricky Jr. from San Antonio, Texas! They caught 9 largemouth bass in the 2-5 pound range and had lots of fun while doing so! In total, there were over 50 largemouth bass caught!

Next up... Washington DC!

## UPCOMING FISHING EVENTS

April 20<sup>th</sup> | Washington D.C.

May 18<sup>th</sup> | Calgary

May 25<sup>th</sup> | Chicago

June 22<sup>nd</sup> | Toronto

July 13<sup>th</sup> | Minnesota

September | New York

September | Boston

October 19<sup>th</sup> | San Jose





## ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2019

### UPS ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

Another successful UPS Ice Fishing Tournament took place on Lake Mille Lacs in February! Despite the bitterly cold weekend, there was a great turn out and fun had by all. With over 75 door prizes, great fishing, celebrity athletes such as Justin Morneau, Keith Ballard, Wes Walz, and others, it was a memorable weekend. On Friday, the athletes were signing autographs and chatting all things sports. Saturday was the highly anticipated ice fishing tournament.

UPS, a long-time supporter of UHL, chose us to be their beneficiary again this year and \$30,000 was raised on behalf of the military kids in our nation and to helping us continue our mission of keeping them healthy and active in sports. A huge thank you to UPS for their continued support and partnership!



### ARMED FORCES HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Armed Forces Hockey Tournament is in the books! 20 teams gathered at the Dakotah Arena in Prior Lake, MN for a weekend of hockey, fun and of course some nice, healthy military rivalry. Teams flew in from all over the U.S. such as California, Arizona and North Carolina, with some local Minnesota based teams. It is a great opportunity for military members, both past and present, to come together and enjoy the game of hockey.

"We put on this tournament as a way for service members to reconnect with comrades and share in the camaraderie of our mutual service to something bigger than ourselves. We do this through the sport of hockey. The tournament provides a venue for players to compete again, and in some respects remember when life was a little simpler and we were all just kids playing a game we love. At the same time, we work to raise money in support of the United Heroes League mission." said Darrin Janisch, AFHT tournament director.



### ANAHEIM DUCKS FOUNDATION

The Anaheim Ducks Foundation is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. To celebrate, they invited their top 25 charities that they have worked with over the years to be a part of an interactive fundraiser. United Heroes League was invited out to Anaheim in February to participate in their \$250,000 give away. Fans in attendance that evening received a \$25 voucher to vote for the charity they would like to donate their money to. We raised about \$15,000! Thank you to Anaheim Ducks Foundation for the continued support.



Anaheim Ducks  
FOUNDATION

### GRANITE CITY LUMBERJACKS

It was another successful year at the Granite City Lumberjacks Military Appreciation Night! The Lumberjacks have been consistent supporters of UHL for the last 6 plus years and it's always great when we get to make the trip up to St. Cloud to cheer them on. In total, the Lumberjacks raised \$20,000 to donate to UHL this year. We are so grateful for their support and help in spreading our mission.



## SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### SGT (Ret.) Richard Silva USMC



**UHL:** What made you decide to serve in the Military?

**Richard:** I decided to serve due to a sense of Patriotism and a sense of duty. I wanted to help make a difference. Finding my purpose is what I did with the military.

**UHL:** What is your favorite memory with UHL?

**Richard:** My favorite memory thus far is going to the NHL All-Star game in 2019. Meeting all the players and having my son alongside me was awesome and will last us a lifetime.

**UHL:** How have sports helped you in life and in the military?

**Richard:** Playing hockey before joining the military helped me be a part of a team. Knowing what it takes to win and be able to accept a loss. Like the military there are times when you don't know someone or like someone a lot but you are willing to be a part of the team to complete the goal.

**UHL:** Message to military supporters and UHL Supporters

**Richard:** I'd like to say Thank You to all who support UHL. This great organization has allowed my son to receive free gear to play hockey. The grants that my son also receives allows him to play the game we both love. I am so thankful we both get to enjoy the game of hockey.

## AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

### Craig Stammen, MLB Pitcher



**UHL:** When did you become an ambassador for UHL and why?

**Craig:** I met Shane in December of 2012 on a USO Holiday Tour with General Martin Dempsey. UHL was Defending the Blue Line at the time. On the trip Shane, Ross Detwiler, and I thought we could do similar things on the baseball side. Ross and I started doing DTBL/UHL events for the Washington Nationals the very next season!

**UHL:** What is your favorite memory with UHL?

**Craig:** My favorite memories with UHL are getting to meet all of the service members and their families at Petco Park each month and when I was able to attend the Camo Classic in 2016!

**UHL:** Do you have any pregame rituals?

**Craig:** I wouldn't call anything I do a ritual, but there is definitely a routine to getting ready to compete! From getting dressed at certain times, to handshakes with teammates. Things are very routine day to day! Hopefully that makes winning routine!

**UHL:** What would you like to say to the military kids of this country?

**Craig:** Thank you for the smiles, thanks you for your joy and love of sports and most of all thank you for serving this country right beside your parents every day! If you want to keep playing, don't let anything stop you! UHL has your back!

## MILITARY KID SPOTLIGHT

### Aarón Palos, 15, Texas



**UHL:** What is your favorite sport/team/player?

**Aarón:** Hockey, Montreal Canadiens, Marc-André Fleury

**UHL:** What is your favorite memory with UHL?

**Aarón:** Receiving some goalie skates and I am also looking forward to attending summer goalie camp!

**UHL:** How has this sport helped you in life?

**Aarón:** Hockey has helped me to manage the frustrations of everyday life. You can't win every game, but you always learn and get ready for the next challenge.

**UHL:** What do you want to be when you grow up?

**Aarón:** A surgeon in the military, a goalie in the NHL and a pilot!

**UHL:** Message to military supporters and UHL Supporters

**Aarón:** Thank you to all who support UHL and military kids like me! Please continue to donate goalie gear for high school players as there are many that can't afford the entire gear, but really want to continue playing.

# NEW AMBASSADOR ALERT

Over the last few months we have welcomed two new ambassadors to our team! We are excited to expand our ever-growing team of representatives, as we work to continue to amplify our presence into new areas of sports and entertainment.

In February, we welcomed our first ever country music singer, **Brandon Lay!** Brandon has been active in our mission for two years and has now officially become a part of our team.

“Thank you @United\_HL for making me your first country music ambassador for military families. Looking forward to helping continue your mission to make sure that children from military families are given every chance there is to play sports. #Heroes”, Lay tweeted following the announcement.

In March, **J Robinson** became our first ever Wrestling ambassador! Robinson is a wrestling legend that has a large following in the wrestling community.

“Anything I or our company *J Robinson Camps* can do to support the military is an honor. We look forward to helping young wrestlers achieve their dreams” Robinson said of his new involvement with United Heroes League.

We are grateful to add these two on our team and looking forward to watching them carry out our mission. We are excited to expand our reach in different areas through these two new ambassadors.



# MVP SPONSORS

Anaheim Ducks  
Anaheim Ducks Alumni Assoc.  
Arby's  
Bauer Hockey  
Carlson Capital Management  
Comcast  
Cub Foods  
Da Beauty League  
Feldmann's Imports  
Fox Sports North  
Granite City Lumberjacks

Great Clips  
Hastings Area Rotary Club  
J Robinson Wrestling  
Matt & Kim Hendricks  
Minnesota Timberwolves  
Minnesota Twins  
Minnesota United FC  
Minnesota Vikings  
Minnesota Wild  
New York Islanders  
NHLPA

Ohio State Men's Hockey  
Perkins  
Pittsburgh Penguins  
San Jose Sharks  
Thomas & Brittney Greiss  
Tradition Companies  
Travelers  
UPS  
USA Hockey  
Washington Capitals  
Wells Fargo

## Upcoming Events

June 24<sup>th</sup> | Camo Classic  
August 11<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> | Warrior Camp  
September 6<sup>th</sup> | Rivertown Live Concert  
September 28<sup>th</sup> | Camo Gala

## How Can You Help?

Donate  
Become a Sponsor  
Fundraise  
Host a Gear Drive  
Attend our Events  
Become a Volunteer  
Leave a Testimonial

United Heroes League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization • Federal Tax ID Number 27-0711063  
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