

# THE UHL SCOUTING REPORT

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



## ALL STAR HERO RECAP

The second year of 'Your All-Star Hero' was even greater than the first! Five Service Members accompanied by a guest flew to St. Louis, Missouri to participate in an unforgettable weekend of All-Star activities, thanks to the NHLPA. These five heroes were selected after multiple rounds of review and deliberation by both United Heroes League and the players.

The weekend was filled with military stories, friendly rivalry, and plenty of hockey. The winners received a three night stay at the same hotel as the players in St. Louis were also invited to attend the All-Star Skills Competition, the All-Star Game,

several other activities, and even hang out in the lounge with the players' families!

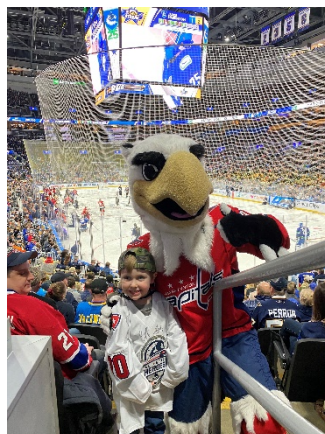
### We would like to introduce you to your 2020 All- Star Heroes...

*Staff Sergeant Michael Spidell* – US Army. SSG Spidell served three tours overseas, and is now medically retired after his vehicle was hit by an IED.  
*Master Corporal Lucas Mayo* – Canadian Forces. MCpl Mayo deployed multiple times as an Infantry Soldier and is now posted to Winnipeg, MB, Canada.  
*Sergeant First Class Sean Harjala* – US Army. SFC Harjala has 48 months of combat experience and has received 4 Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

*Chief Petty Officer Roy Jaquez* – US Navy. Medically retired after 14 years of service. CPO Jaquez was awarded a Purple Heart and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Device.

*Major James Brophy* – US Marine Corps. Killed In Action after serving 13 years. It was an absolute honor to host his wife Erica and son Jack.

A special thank you to [Nobis](#) for donating luxury coats, and [Norgain](#) for donating exquisite time pieces to these heroes who have over 60 years of combined service. This event wouldn't be possible without the commitment to give back to military families by the [NHLPA](#) and the Pro Hockey Players.



## ARBY'S DONATION

Arby's Foundation donated \$100,000 to United Heroes League in both 2019 and now in 2020, being UHL's first six figure donor and first donor of multiple six figure donations! Arby's has been a constant supporter of UHL and our mission. We can't wait to continue working with Arby's to keep military kids smiling.



## 2019 - A RECORD YEAR

- 10,000 military families nation-wide were impacted by our mission
- Over \$1,200,000 in equipment alone distributed to military families
- Distributed more than 5,700 pro sports tickets to military families thanks to our pro team partners

In all, UHL provided over \$3MM in benefits at an 88% charitable giving rate in 2019. Our heroes need us more than ever in 2020, and we're committed to being here for them.



## WE WILL PREVAIL

A message from the President of United Heroes League

It can be challenging to find words in these uncertain times, as a nation we've never been through what we're going through together right now, and there is still a lot of uncertainty out there for what the coming weeks and months will hold for us. I know two things to be true right now though: 1. We will prevail, and we'll come back stronger than ever as a nation. 2. Our heroes need us more than ever right now, it's a scary time to be serving when you're concerned about the well being of your family left behind.

We're adjusting some of our charitable giving components in the near term to better serve military families. There are obviously no pro games that we can send families too, no special experiences with the social distancing that's in place, and we've suspended all sports equipment movement in and out of our facility to do our part to control any potential spread of the virus. As we speak, we're inventing new and creative ways to connect with military families to boost their spirits and let them know we're still here for them.

Starting next week, we'll be connecting our Pro Athlete Ambassadors with military kids across the country to do special phone calls. The pros will let the kids know they are thinking about them and their families, they'll chit chat about sports, favorite teams / players, and who knows what else! We're very thankful to have so many great athletes in our ranks that care so deeply about military families. We'll also continue to roll out creative things like coloring book pages for the kids, and other tools aimed at keeping military families healthy and active. Once we've determined that it's safe to start shipping again, we'll turn on the inventory machine to get gloves, balls, all kinds of sports gear out the door so families can play catch in the back yard or just get outside and start moving again as spring unfolds.

United Heroes League has no plans to lay off or terminate any of our small staff, which is predominately a Veteran workforce. While I have everyone other than myself working from home right now, we know our mission is critical to take care of the troops and their families. There is a lot of financial uncertainty for everyone right now, but we know we have some of the best corporate and private supporters in the world who will keep us going. It's a good time to give, if you have the capacity.

Finally, my personal advice to you right now is to remember "the APP"... stay Active, stay Positive, and stay Prepared.

We will prevail. We will get through this.

All my best, - Shane Hudella, 1SG (Ret.), President & Founder, United Heroes League





## SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Staff Sergeant Josh Markfort,  
Army National Guard**



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

**Josh:** I always wanted to serve in the Army from when I was a little kid. My Grandfather and Uncle both served in the Army so it was in my family to serve.

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

**Josh:** One of my favorite memories with UHL is when my family and I volunteered to sell programs at the Wild game a few years ago. My daughter and son had a wonderful time yelling "Programs come get your programs".

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

**Josh:** Sports showed me how to work with others, that's why when I went to basic training the people who played team sports had a step ahead of the others that didn't play sports. We knew how to work together and listen to each other.

**UHL:** Do you have a message to military supporters and UHL supporters?

**Josh:** Thank you for all that you do for us military families. Without UHL, my family would not be able to place my children in the sports they love. UHL supported our family with sports gear to play multiple sports. I can always count on Shane and UHL.

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

**Tyus:** I became UHL's NBA Ambassador in 2017. The mission of helping the military families for people who serve our country is very important to me. My grandfather was a paratrooper and I just feel it's critical that we help the families for those who are making the ultimate sacrifice to defend our country.

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

**Tyus:** National Ice Cream day, I got to come out of the back of an ice cream truck with ice cream and surprise a few military families who were playing basketball in a park.

**UHL:** Do you have any pre-game rituals?

**Tyus:** I only have a few pregame rituals; one is I always listen to music prior to the game in the locker room. Another ritual I have is to put my right shoe on before my left when getting ready for the game. Lastly, I always have to say a prayer before the game starts.

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

**Tyus:** Remember the bigger picture in life, always have a positive and happy outlook on things! Whatever you believe and want to achieve, you can! Write Your Own Story.

## AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

**Tyus Jones, NBA, Memphis Grizzlies**



## MILITARY KID SPOTLIGHT

**Dominick Tamburo, 10, Minnesota**



**UHL:** What are your favorite sports/teams/player?

**Dominick:** My favorite sports are hockey and baseball. My favorite teams are MN Wild, MN Twins and MN Vikings. Favorite players Charlie Coyle, Joe Mauer, and Stephan Diggs.

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

**Dominick:** Having my friends at my birthday bash to donate money to United Heros League. And Warrior Camp at Camp Ripley!

**UHL:** How have sports helped you in life?

**Dominick:** They keep me healthy and active and have also improved my self-confidence. They also teach you how to be a good teammate.

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

**Dominick:** I don't know what I want to do, but some ideas are playing professional sports, joining the military and creating video games.

**UHL:** Do you have a message to military supporters and UHL supporters?

**Dominick:** Thank you for giving military kids a chance to keep playing sports, it means a lot to us. And thank you for supporting military members and their families like mine.

## Upcoming Events

(Postponed) Armed Forces Hockey Tournament | March 21-23

FiTroop Challenge | Date TBD

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN : [UnitedHeroesLeague.org/FiTroop](https://UnitedHeroesLeague.org/FiTroop)

Camo Classic | June 29<sup>th</sup>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN : [UnitedHeroesLeague.org/Golf](https://UnitedHeroesLeague.org/Golf)

Warrior Camp | August 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1

Camo Gala | Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

## MVP SPONSORS

Anaheim Ducks  
Arby's  
Bauer Hockey  
Comcast  
Cub Foods  
Da Beauty League  
Feldmann's Imports  
Fox Sports North  
Granite City Lumberjacks  
Great Clips  
Hastings MN Ford & Chrysler  
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  
Pittsburgh Penguins  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
San Diego Padres

San Jose Sharks  
Tanium  
Texas Rangers  
Thomas & Brittney Greiss  
Toro  
Tradition Companies  
Travelers  
UPS  
USA Hockey  
Washington Capitals  
Wells Fargo

## 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  
15211 Ravenna Trail Hastings, MN 55033 • [www.UnitedHeroesLeague.org](https://www.UnitedHeroesLeague.org)

