

# MILITARY FAMILY VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

In appreciation of our military members and their sacrifice, we donate a repaired vehicle every year to military families in need.

#### PROGRAM HISTORY:

LaMettry's Collision has donated 12 fully refurbished vehicles to families in need since 2012. How the program works is that "totaled" vehicles are donated by an insurance partner, and then repaired at our shops by staff using parts and materials that are donated by our vendor partners. The selected recipient then receives a "like new" vehicle at no cost to them.

When we originally began this initiative, we gave the first vehicle to a mother of four. We quickly realized that we wanted to use this opportunity to honor and give back to the military community. After our first donation, all vehicles have been given to a veteran or their family. Each vehicle is presented to the recipient at a celebration ceremony attended by our partners and community.

# PAST RECIPIENTS:

2022

Army Veterans: Jeremiah and Jennifer Johnson

Both Jeremiah and Jennifer served in the Army in various roles. Jeremiah was deployed multiple times to Afghanistan as well as Iraq. This dual military family from Bemidji, MN has seven children ranging in age from 13 to 27. They are very active in their community and planned to use their new vehicle to continue to help veterans.



### 2021 Marine Corps Veteran: Teri

Teri's story was one of "vets helping vets." She served in the USMC from 2003 – 2008, and left to pursue formal education in nursing. As a single mom to four children, she planned to use her new vehicle to transport her children, get to medical treatments, and continue her volunteer work to help other veterans.



#### 2020

#### Army Veteran: Dave General

Dave spent 26 years in the military, and served with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office since 2001. He has a medical condition that required a double lung transplant in March of 2020. This vehicle allowed for reliable transportation for his family and to medical appointments.

\*Unfortunately, we were unable to have a celebration event due to Covid restrictions.



### 2019 Army Veteran: Tristan Carpe

Tristan served as a combat medic at the US Army Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany. There she was responsible for treating wounded soldiers as well as casualty assistance, caring for our fallen heroes. She handled all these responsibilities in a "brave and loving way." A mother of five, she planned to use her new vehicle to get to and from work, and take care of the needs of her children.



# 2018 Marine: Family of Staff Sgt Andrew Vanderplaats

Staff Sgt Vanderplaats enlisted in 2007, and had been serving the rigors of recruiting duty in Burnsville, MN. His wife had just passed away unexpectedly in January of that year, leaving him to raise three daughters. This vehicle provided reliable transportation and alleviated some financial burden as they moved cross country to their next duty station.



### 2017 Navy Veteran: Justin Griego

A US Navy Veteran who sustained injuries while on active duty. Upon his return, his fiancé had been diagnosed with cervical cancer, and his son was diagnosed with ASD. Due to all their challenges, the family found themselves homeless and were helped by a program for homeless veterans. This vehicle helped them get back on their feet.



# 2015 (December) Marine Veteran: Willie Pargo

Willie served in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart Medal. He donated years of his life as a volunteer at the Minneapolis VA and was also a VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. This vehicle provided reliable transportation to allow him to continue his volunteer work.



### 2015 (May)

# Army: Cheryl Zaun, mother of Mickey E Zaun, killed in action

Sgt. 1st Class Mickey E Zaun joined the Army in 1995 and was a Chemical Operations Specialist. He died on January 28, 2005 from injuries sustained in an armored vehicle collision near Mosul, Iraq. Prior to his death, his mother had been in a bike accident followed by a car accident, resulting in severe injuries. As a result, she was unable to work. This vehicle helped ease the financial burden for her.



### 2014 (December)

### Army National Guard: Nichelle & Sean Nagle

A newlywed couple in the 114th Transportation Company of the National Guard who had recently returned from their deployment in Afghanistan.



# 2014 (May)

### Army: Family of Kham Xiong, killed at Fort Hood

Family of Kham See Xiong, US Army Private First Class who was tragically killed in the shooting at Fort Hood as he was preparing to be deployed to Afghanistan. He left behind a wife and three small children who moved back to Minnesota to be with family.



## 2013 Army: Staff Sgt. Scott Adams

SSG Scott Adams was deployed to the Middle East six times; three deployments to Iraq, two to Kuwait and one to Afghanistan. On his last deployment, he sustained life changing injuries when his Humvee struck anti-tank mines resulting in 3rd and 4th degree burns to over 50% of his body.



2012 Mother of Four

