

CARING QUARTERLY

WHERE COMPASSION COMES TO LIFE

Honoring Courage, Celebrating Service



SPRING 2026

Spotlight Showing
Gratitude for Service and
Sacrifice: Red, White &
Brave 2026

Courageously Impactful
Moments

Campaign United
Launched

Dear Friends,

Spring season invites us to pause and reflect on the moments and people who shape our lives in lasting ways. Mother's Day is a time to honor those who have nurtured us and to recognize the lasting impact of compassion in our lives. Because of you, that same spirit of care reaches patients and families each day, offering comfort, presence, and connection when it is needed most.

In this spring edition of *Caring Quarterly*, we reflect on moments that bring this compassion to life. At our recent Red, White and Brave event, nearly 150 guests gathered to honor courage and celebrate the veterans in our care. Because of you, these individuals are met with dignity, respect, and heartfelt gratitude for their service.

We also reflect on our 17th Signature Luncheon, a meaningful tradition that brings our community together. It was a celebration of what you make possible through your generosity.

Through Linens and Love, you provide comfort in the smallest but most meaningful ways. Fresh linens become a quiet reminder that every person in our care is valued and surrounded with dignity.

Your support ensures that veterans are celebrated for their courage and service. It also makes grief therapy programs, including Blue Butterfly, offering children and families a safe space to process loss and begin healing. In these tender moments, your compassion helps others feel seen, understood, and less alone.

Because of you, light reaches people when they need it most. Thank you for being part of this caring community.

Warm regards,



Delesa Morris, MS, CFRE
President
Tidewell Foundation

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Spotlight

Honoring Courage, Celebrating Service: Red, White & Brave 2026

On March 26, 2026, the Tidewell Foundation brought the community together to honor five local veterans at the annual Red, White & Brave celebration, held at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda.

The event opened with a **Presentation of Colors and the National Anthem** before **Stacy Groff, MNM, Vice President, Care & Connection for Empath Health**, introduced the honorees. **Sgt. James B. Hemingway**, a U.S. Army Military Police veteran, now advocates for veterans through media and nonprofit leadership. **Master Sgt. Justin Ledford** channeled his Army experience into creating wellness programs for veterans at YMCA SWFL. **Capt. Donald L. Long**, an Air Force F-4 Phantom crew chief and Vietnam veteran, inspires young aviators as a volunteer at the Military Heritage Museum.

Sgt. Major Carlos J. Moreira brings over 25 years of service to his current role leading over 1,200 Marines while also serving veterans at USF Sarasota-Manatee. **Dave**

Martens was recognized as a posthumous honoree, for his 20 years of Air Force service and life of continued purpose.

Also honored was **Sgt. Mike Murphy**, a Vietnam veteran whose service didn't end when he left the Army. Since 2017, Murphy has volunteered more than 1,000 hours with the Tidewell Honors Veterans program, ensuring that veterans in hospice receive a meaningful pinning ceremony. "You do one and you see the reaction of the veteran and the family," he said. "And you know you're doing something important." The role is especially meaningful to Murphy, who experienced hospice firsthand while his late wife was in care.





“His service didn’t end when he left the Army. It continues in every moment of care he gives to fellow veterans.”

The program continued, as Gary Butler, Tidewell Foundation Trustee and former Executive Director of the Military Heritage Museum, introduced the Keynote Speaker, **Sal Gonzalez** of the Wounded Warrior Project. His message of maintaining resilience in the face of adversity inspired everyone in attendance.

It was a privilege to honor the veterans at Red, White & Brave, who represent excellence in military service and community commitment.

The Tidewell Honors Veterans program remains dedicated to ensuring veterans never feel forgotten, which is possible thanks to donor support of the Tidewell Foundation.

Learn more at [TidewellFoundation.org](https://www.tidewellfoundation.org).

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
Russell Charitable Foundation, Co-Chairs Moe Dinneen and Patty Smith (pictured below), Dignity Memorial, Gladrich Florist Shoppe, and Military Heritage Museum.



Featured

Keynote Speaker and Performer

Growing up in East Los Angeles, **Sal Gonzalez** found focus and purpose through music. That foundation would later prove vital. After the September 11 attacks, Gonzalez joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served as a machine gunner in Iraq until an IED blast left him with a traumatic brain injury, PTSD, and the loss of his leg.

In recovery, he turned back to music.

It became his path forward, helping him heal and ultimately inspiring fellow veterans in his work with Wounded Warrior Project. Gonzalez shared his remarkable story as keynote speaker at this year’s Red, White & Brave event, reminding us all that even in the face of profound loss, healing and purpose are possible.

Sal’s performance and story was a meaningful addition to the event.



Courageously Impactful MOMENTS



The **17th Annual Signature Luncheon**, presented by exclusive sponsor Caldwell Trust Company, took place on March 6, 2026 at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota. Featured speaker and Super Bowl champion Joe Theismann inspired guests with his powerful story of resilience, delivered with humor and heart. **Over 450 people were in attendance, raising more than \$300,000 for vital programs and services.** Thank you to the sponsors, co-chairs Julie Delaney and Kathy Martella, the dedicated committee, and everyone who attended or supported this extraordinary event.

Courageously Impactful

MOMENTS



\$5,000+

Total in Giving

1880+

Linens Donated

The annual **Linens & Love Drive**, held in partnership with Dignity Memorial, was another huge success! Throughout March, new XL twin sheet sets, towels, washcloths, and blankets were collected across Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. For home hospice patients who spend much of their time in bed, these donations offer a simple yet profoundly comforting reminder that they are not forgotten. More than 1880 linens and \$5,060 were collected for patients in need.

Thank you to all who participated!

Morgan Hoerner
Philanthropy Associate



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Grief Therapy



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When someone we love dies, life changes in ways that can feel overwhelming and lasting. Because of your generosity, Tidewell provides free grief support to thousands each year, and together, we can continue expanding that care to families in every community we serve.



“I came in one way (overwhelmed) and completed grief counseling with peace, better understanding of the grief process and with tools for the future.”

-Diane, Grief Therapy Participant

We're Here to Help You Plan

No matter how you donate—or how much—the philanthropy team is available to help you plan your gift.



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MEMORIAL



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