



# FOLDS *of* HONOR

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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# WELCOME LETTER

Dear Folds of Honor Wingman,

We had an amazing year sending over 4500 military dependents to school. I salute you, and I am honored to serve with you. Please enjoy and share our annual report that highlights a small portion of the awesome support for Folds of Honor.

Together we are united hand-over-heart American patriots, aligned by a profound purpose – to make a lasting difference in the lives of people to whom we owe a great debt. **Under the banner of the Folds of Honor Foundation, we honor the sacrifice of fallen and disabled service members by providing educational scholarships to their spouses, sons and daughters, 90% of whom do not qualify for federal funding.** Our mission serves as a beacon, drawing an ever-increasing number of like-minded patriots. They are joining our ranks with confidence because we've made financial integrity an unwavering priority, as evidenced by our perfect 4-star Charity Navigator rating. **Brave men and women will always be needed to fight for liberty, so the Folds of Honor mission will never end.**

I continue to fly fighters at Eglin AFB in Destin, Florida as a member of the 301st Fighter Squadron. And on a personal note, I'm excited to share with you that I have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Onward with Valor!  
Godspeed,



Lt Col Dan Rooney  
Founder & CEO, Folds of Honor



**LT COL DAN  
ROONEY**  
FOUNDER & CEO





*John Rich, Country Music Star and Folds of Honor Wingman, with Granny Rich*

# CORPORATE SUPPORT

Folds of Honor depends on the generous support of corporate partners to fulfill its mission and raise awareness for the organization. Many corporations, events, retailers and foundations have gone above and beyond in support of Folds of Honor. This year, Folds of Honor has the privilege of saying, “thank you” to thousands of partners, big and small, including:



# FINANCIALS

Folds of Honor pledges to operate in a respectful manner to every partner, donor and family that it supports. The organization is proud to be considered a high-performing nonprofit that has achieved the highest-possible ratings by GuideStar and Charity Navigator.

The Charities Review Council recommends that at least 65% of a nonprofit's three-year average annual expenses are used to directly support programming, with an ideal range between 70 and 90%. Folds of Honor is proud to report a cumulative average ratio of 89% of annual expenses supporting our scholarship program. This average can be derived from pages one and 10 of the Folds of Honor Form 990. Financials were prepared by an independent accountant and reviewed by an audit committee.

In 2019, Folds of Honor awarded approximately \$22 million in educational scholarships to over 4,500 students, representing a 10% increase in scholarships from 2018.

Scholarships are valued at \$5,000 and are awarded to qualifying spouses and children of fallen or disabled U.S. service members. Since its inception in 2007, Folds of Honor has awarded nearly 24,500 total scholarships in all 50 states.

Texas marked the top state for the number of total 2019 scholarships with 561 recipients, followed closely by North Carolina with 470 recipients and then Georgia with 333 recipients.

While the foundation celebrates a record fundraising year, the need for scholarships is still increasing. More than 500 eligible, qualified applicants went unfunded in 2019.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Folds of Honor Foundation as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for those years ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Tulsa, Oklahoma | June 28, 2019

*Eide Bailly LLP*



To reach four stars on Charity Navigator, Folds of Honor exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities. Charity Navigator's rating is based on two distinct components – financial health and accountability/transparency. Charities must excel above industry standards in both areas of evaluation in order to achieve Four-Star status.



To reach the Platinum level on GuideStar, Folds of Honor added extensive information to its nonprofit profile on GuideStar: basic contact and organizational information, in depth financial information, qualitative information about goals, strategies and capabilities, and quantitative information about results and progress toward its mission.

**\$22**MILLION  
IN EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO  
**4,500** STUDENTS

**THE NEED FOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
IS STILL  
INCREASING**

**14%**  
**INCREASE**

in applications from 2018

**500**

eligible, qualified applicants  
went unfunded in 2019

ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU  
ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY

JOHN F. KENNEDY

**LOOKING FOR OTHER  
WAYS TO SUPPORT  
FOLDS OF HONOR?**

*Our squadron of Wingmen support the pursuit of education for our military families affected by war by committing to provide aid in the form of a recurring donation, starting at \$13/mo.*



**BecomeAWingman.org**



# THEIR NEED IS GREAT. THEIR BATTLE IS OURS. JOIN OUR RANKS.

[BecomeAWingman.org](http://BecomeAWingman.org)



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*The families who we serve are at the core of the Folds of Honor mission. Each scholarship recipient has a different story, and each story is a constant reminder that freedom isn't free. Folds of Honor is proud to give back to the families of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Here are just a few stories of the countless people who Folds of Honor serves each day.*



**CHRISTIAN  
MEZA**



When Christian Meza lost his father in 2016, it was the first time he thought he may not be able to afford to go to college. He felt compelled to stay close to his little brother and mother and worried about the rising cost of tuition. Christian discovered Folds of Honor while googling “Military Scholarships.”

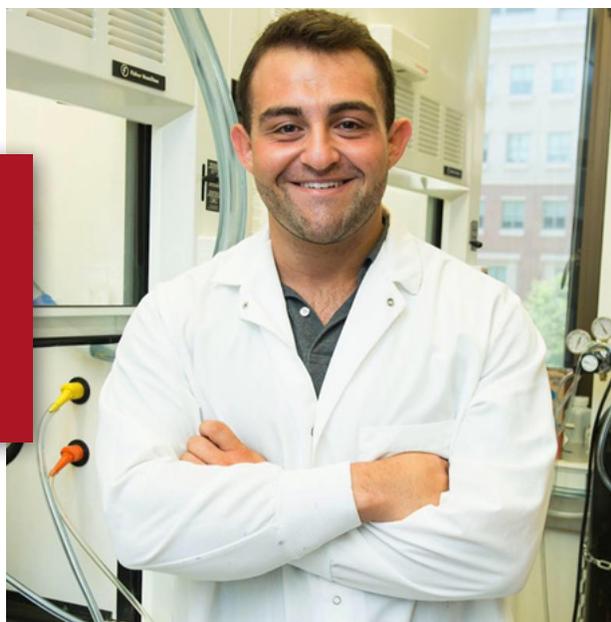
His father, Air Force Chief Master Sergeant William Kendall, retired in 2013 after serving honorably for 30 years. He spent his entire Air Force career in the Payments and Construction Equipment Operator field and completed seven tours to Iraq and Afghanistan under Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. CMSgt Kendall was a decorated Airman and received a Bronze Star medal in 2012. Upon retirement, he was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. On November 17, 2016, CMSgt Kendall succumbed to his combat disabilities and passed away from a post traumatic seizure.

Now, thanks to help from Folds of Honor, Christian is attending the University of Utah, where he is studying business and is an active member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Christian has raised over \$1,000 through his fraternity in the efforts to defeat ALS, achieving the title of Iron Phi from his fraternity for his charitable efforts raising money for ALS. Christian is an avid skier, loves to travel and, of course, loves to game in his free time. He has dabbled in musicals and played soccer since he was four years old. He loves to play golf, go to the shooting range and is self-taught on the piano and ukulele. One of Christian’s favorite things to do is grab his ukulele and encourage others to gather around and sing!

Christian has a very close relationship with his little brother and mother since losing his dad. He is active with the Veterans Service Center at the “U” and sings the praises of service dogs whenever possible, as his own service dog, Justice, made a big impact on his family. Christian is planning on continuing his education through law school after graduation.

**Thanks to help from Folds of Honor, Christian is attending The University of Utah to study business.**

## STEPHEN FREDERICO



Stephen C. Frederico graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology from the College of Charleston in South Carolina in May 2019. The two-time Folds of Honor Higher Education Scholarship recipient discovered Folds of Honor after his mother saw a segment on "Fox & Friends." During his time in school, Stephen found a passion for neuroscience and became heavily involved in pediatric brain tumor research at the Medical University of South Carolina. He presented a research project to NASA engineers and scientists on the effects of gamma radiation as related to astronauts and their work on the International Space Station. Additionally, Stephen completed a summer fellowship at the Duke Neurosurgery, Brain Tumor and Immunotherapy Program.

**Stephen was able to present some of his neuro-oncology research findings on nano particles and brain tumors via a TEDx talk**

Without the Folds of Honor scholarship, Stephen would not have advanced this far in his educational journey. Because of the financial assistance he received, he was able to pay the bills while focusing solely on his education. Stephen also had the opportunity to present some of his neuro-oncology research findings on nanoparticles and brain tumors through a TEDx talk. Now, Stephen is continuing his educational studies in the fall of 2019 as a Cancer Research Training Award Fellow at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, while attending Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Stephen credits his father with instilling an attitude of "never giving up" and believing that "anything is possible if you truly put your mind to it." Stephen's father, Marine Corps Corporal Stephen D. Frederico, served honorably with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines as a rifleman as part of the Multinational Force, an international peacekeeping force, in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983. This unit became the main victim of the "Beirut Bombing" on October 23, 1983 when a truck loaded with 12,000 pounds of explosives crashed through the gates of the BLT headquarters at the airport in Beirut, Lebanon. Casualties on that day included 220 Marines, 18 Sailors and three Soldiers with 100 individuals injured. The majority of the casualties were from Corporal Frederico's unit.



## BRANDON ISLER



Brandon Isler is a 2019 graduate from DePaul University in Chicago with a Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience and a specialty in Addiction Psychology. He is currently working as a research assistant at Northwestern University and DePaul University. Additionally, Brandon volunteers as a counselor and works with kids who have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as he has done for years. Brandon received his Folds of Honor scholarship on behalf of his father, Army Reserve Major Eric Isler. Major Isler served honorably for more than 20 years being deployed under Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Brandon's mother, Lieutenant Colonel Becki Moore of the Army Reserves, is employed as a civilian contractor for the Army Reserves and has more than 31 years of service. LTC Moore was last deployed under Operation Spartan Shield. Her husband, retired Lieutenant Colonel Averill Ruiz of the Army, has 26 years of service.

**Brandon continues to volunteer as a counselor and work with kids who have PTSD.**



## ALEXANDRIA SMITH



Alexandria is a four-year Folds of Honor scholarship recipient and a 2019 California State University at San Marcos graduate. She is the daughter of two amazing veterans. Alex's mother, Army Specialist Lisa Lupercio, served honorably in the supply division. Her father, Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Treniel Smith, served over 22 years and was involved with logistics for infantry, artillery and aviation. While working at Camp Pendleton, a co-worker told her father about Folds of Honor. She used the Folds of Honor scholarship to complete her academic requirements.

She is currently working part-time as a peer specialist to manage coping and support groups for teens at local high schools in hopes of lowering youth suicide. She also serves as a research assistant to a professor on campus. Alexandria is now working toward her master's degree in education and her teaching credentials in special education.

**Alexandria works part-time as a peer specialist running coping and support groups for teens at local high schools in hopes of lowering the suicide rate among youth.**



## JESSICA FARLEY

Jessica Farley heard about Folds of Honor through a military resource board and is now a senior at Ashford University in San Diego, California, taking online classes to get her accounting degree. A three-year Folds of Honor scholarship recipient, Jessica is a diligent student and frequently makes the Dean's list while also managing a family of five. She has dedicated much of her life to caring for her husband, Air Force Senior Airman Chad Farley, while managing her own education and helping her three children with their studies. Airman Farley served honorably under Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Jessica and Chad have two sons, Tyler and Aiden, a daughter, Cami, a loving service dog, Brice, and a volunteer escort. The family lives on 122 acres near a wildlife reserve in Tennessee. Jessica and Chad share an appreciation for the outdoors, and their first date included an ATV ride at Windrock, Tennessee. To this day, the family enjoys riding ATVs along the property fence line to explore their land and ensure that it is safe and secure.



**Jessica spends her time studying, helping her children with their studies and caring for her husband and service member, United States Air Force Senior Airman Chad Farley.**

## LIZ O'HARE



Fulbright Scholar and Folds of Honor scholarship recipient Elizabeth “Liz” O’Hare presented the keynote speech to her graduating class in May 2019 at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Biology. She states her mother discovered Folds of Honor while searching for college scholarships for her sister.

**Liz spent time as an undergraduate intern at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, observing surgeries and conducting research in pediatric and fetal surgery.**

Liz spent time as an undergraduate intern at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, observing surgeries and conducting research in pediatric and fetal surgery. Her research has been published in the *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, *The Journal of Pediatric Surgery* and *American Pediatric Surgical Association*. She is now teaching high school biology and physics in Los Angeles while earning her master’s degree in education from Notre Dame as a part of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). After completing this program, Liz hopes to either continue her career in education or go on to maternal-fetal medicine.

Her father, Navy Lieutenant Commander Raymond O’Hare, was killed when his T-38 Talon training jet crashed on approach near the Naval Test Pilot School in Maryland. He was a Harvard graduate and an aspiring astronaut.





Escoe Family



# SPORTS

Golf continues to be a driving source of donations for Folds of Honor. What began as a small golf tournament in Grand Haven, Michigan, has now grown to a national movement known as Patriot Golf Day and one of the most important fundraising events for Folds of Honor. Now, thanks to the work of Lt Col Dan Rooney and one of the greatest legends of the game, Jack Nicklaus, the golf course that hosted the very first fundraising event, Grand Haven Golf Club, will be transformed into American Dunes Golf Club and forever stand as a tribute to the men and women of our military.

In addition to golf, countless sports organizations and communities have come together to support the mission and drive a major source of revenue for Folds of Honor. From PGA Professionals to NASCAR to Major League Baseball, committed athletes, pros and celebrities across America have done amazing things to raise money for our military families.



*Mr. Jack Nicklaus and Lt Col Dan Rooney*



## PATRIOT GOLF DAY

Patriot Golf Day continually stands out as one of the primary sources of revenue for Folds of Honor, raising millions for the organization since 2007. In 2018 alone, Patriot Golf Day raised more than \$7 million, a new record for the event.

This year marks the 13th year of Patriot Golf Day. Patriot Golf Day began as a fundraising initiative over Labor Day weekend, and it has since evolved into a year-long annual event. PGA golf professionals and amateur players are encouraged to participate throughout the year. This includes everything from donation box programs to fundraising events, golf marathons and special on-course contests. The campaign is also supported by Golf Legend Jack Nicklaus, who serves as the Honorary Chair of the event.



RESULTING IN NEARLY

**24,500**  
SCHOLARSHIPS

### GET INVOLVED

Golf properties across the country can get involved in Patriot Golf Day by registering at

[patriotgolfday.org](http://patriotgolfday.org)



## PATRIOT CUP INVITATIONAL

Folds of Honor celebrated the 10th Annual Patriot Cup Invitational this year. The Patriot Cup Invitational stands as one of the most patriotic events on Memorial Day weekend and is hosted annually at the Folds of Honor Headquarters and the Patriot Golf Club in Owasso, Oklahoma. It is supported and attended by players from the PGA TOUR, celebrities, coaches, professional athletes, military members and Folds of Honor scholarship recipients. The event includes a national gala, concert and golf tournament and provides a platform for the organization to thank its biggest supporters and Wingmen and introduce them to the families that they help serve. This year's event included a concert by music star Phil Vassar.



THE PATRIOT CUP  
INVITATIONAL



## 2019 U.S. OPEN

The Folds of Honor family celebrated a major milestone this June when its good friend and Wingman, Gary Woodland, captured his first Major Championship title with a historic win at the 2019 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

Woodland, a longtime Folds of Honor ambassador and personal friend of Lt Col Dan Rooney, shows his support on TOUR in a very visual way - with a red, white and blue color palette. He donned the Folds of Honor logo and brand from head to toe, showcasing the Volition American PUMA Golf line and bringing national attention and donations to the mission on one of the biggest stages in golf.

Woodland received the 2018 Corporal Brock Bucklin Patriot Award for his unwavering support to Folds of Honor, one of the top honors given by the organization.



## NASCAR

Thanks to its partnership with QuikTrip, Folds of Honor has been the beneficiary of one of NASCAR's biggest events, the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500, since 2015. The popular Atlanta event has driven massive awareness and donations for Folds of Honor, spurring a major increase in scholarship applications year over year.

As a result, the need for donations is greater than ever before. Following through on its commitment to military families, QuikTrip renewed its NASCAR sponsorship this year and will continue to share the naming rights of this event with Folds of Honor through 2021.



*Lt Col Dan Rooney and Flyover Pilots*



*Brad Keselowski,  
2019 Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 winner*



## MLB, NBA, NHL

Folds of Honor partners with Budweiser to raise money for scholarships during various MLB, NBA and NHL games. The teams and fans from these leagues contribute to the organization in many ways, including special warm-up jersey presentations, check presentations, surprise meet and greets for scholarship recipient families, first pitch activations, donations from beer sales at events, team store signage and more.



# CHAPTER GROWTH

Folds of Honor has a growing presence across the country with several new local chapters launched in 2019, bringing its chapter partners to 25 total in the U.S. Local chapters have become the lifeblood of Folds of Honor. Not only does each location raise funds and awareness for the mission, but the people of these passionate chapters have also provided support and care to recipient families across the area. They provide a network of support and understanding for scholarship recipients during the most difficult times, which underscores the Folds of Honor mission. Folds of Honor recognizes these local leaders and their respective teams who are responsible for the growth and success of the 25 chapters of the organization, many of which are scholarship recipients themselves.



**1** **Kansas City**  
*Overland Park, Kansas*  
ESTABLISHED June 2011  
PRESIDENT Larry Pfeiffer

**2** **Chicago**  
*Chicago, Illinois*  
ESTABLISHED May 2012  
PRESIDENT Karen Haworth

**3** **Central Texas**  
*Austin, Texas*  
ESTABLISHED April 2013  
PRESIDENT Ben Wheatley

**4** **North Texas**  
*Dallas, Texas*  
ESTABLISHED November 2013  
PRESIDENT Mike Beltz

**5** **Minnesota**  
*Wayzata, Minnesota*  
ESTABLISHED May 2014  
PRESIDENT Perry & Anne Schmidt

**6** **Southern California**  
*Newport Beach, California*  
ESTABLISHED March 2015  
PRESIDENT Randall Hunt

**7** **North Florida**  
*Longwood, Florida*  
ESTABLISHED May 2015  
PRESIDENT Scott Morris

**8** **Indiana**  
*Carmel, Indiana*  
ESTABLISHED November 2015  
PRESIDENT Mike Daggett

**9** **Arizona**  
*Phoenix, Arizona*  
ESTABLISHED August 2015  
PRESIDENT Tim Greer

**10** **Michigan**  
*Grand Haven, Michigan*  
ESTABLISHED July 2016  
PRESIDENT John Somers

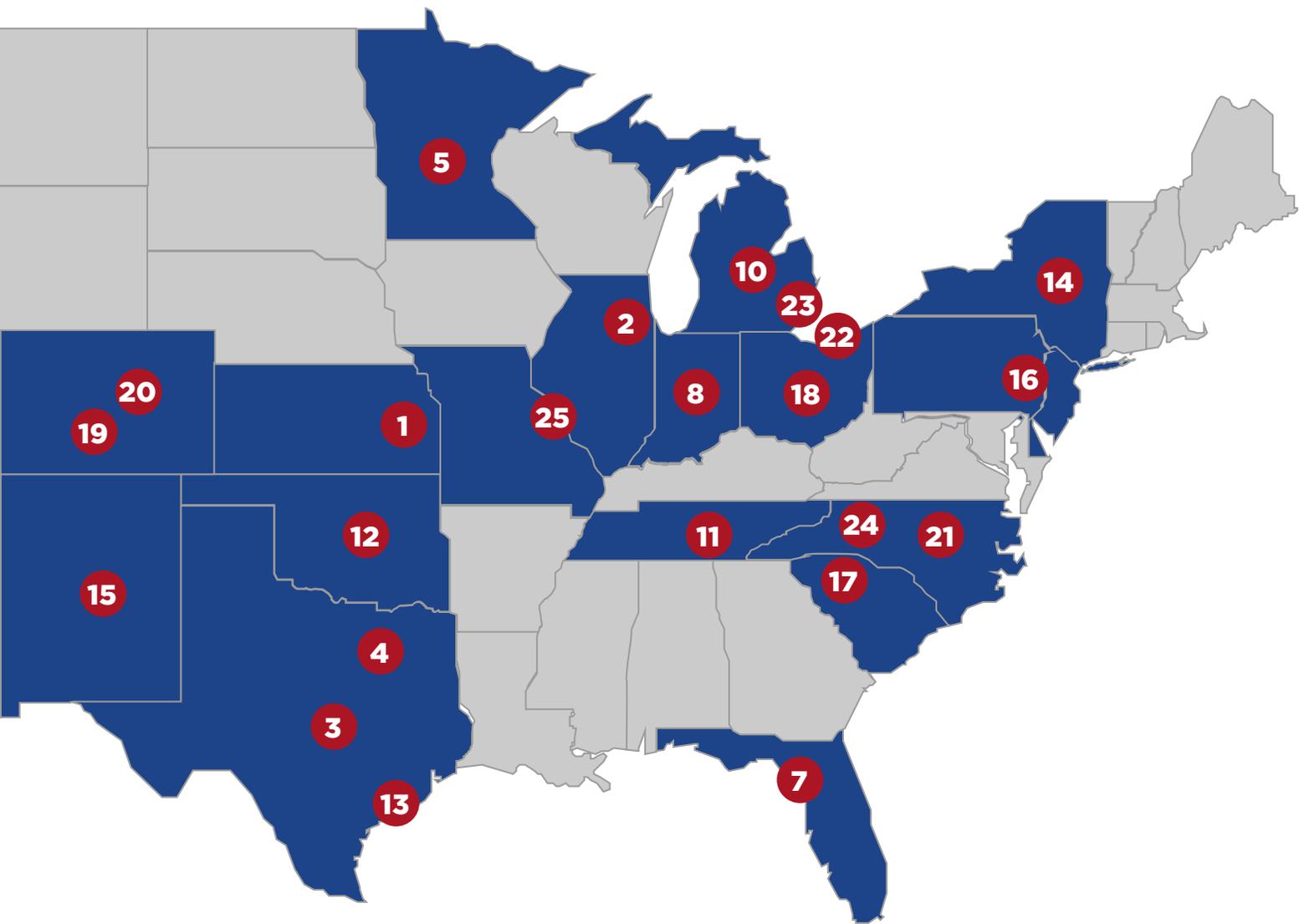
**11** **Nashville**  
*Nashville, Tennessee*  
ESTABLISHED February 2018  
PRESIDENT Lee Brice

**12** **Oklahoma City**  
*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*  
ESTABLISHED October 2017  
PRESIDENT Ryan Lewellyn

**13** **South Texas**  
*Houston, Texas*  
ESTABLISHED March 2018  
PRESIDENT John Nemecek

**14** **New York**  
*Albany, New York*  
ESTABLISHED March 2018  
PRESIDENT Tom O'Connor

**15** **New Mexico**  
*Albuquerque, New Mexico*  
ESTABLISHED April 2018  
PRESIDENT Jim Quick



**16 Eastern PA-NJ**  
*Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania*  
 ESTABLISHED April 2018  
 PRESIDENT Beth Simmons

**17 Palmetto State**  
*Greenville, South Carolina*  
 ESTABLISHED July 2018  
 PRESIDENT Jeff Morris

**18 Central Ohio**  
*Dublin, Ohio*  
 ESTABLISHED October 2018  
 PRESIDENT Scott Alexander

**19 Colorado Patriots**  
*Parker, Colorado*  
 ESTABLISHED November 2018  
 PRESIDENT Steve Smith

**20 Colorado**  
*Centennial, Colorado*  
 ESTABLISHED December 2018  
 PRESIDENT Doug Campbell

**21 E North Carolina**  
*Raleigh, North Carolina*  
 ESTABLISHED December 2018  
 PRESIDENT Brian Reddersen

**22 Northern Ohio**  
*Cleveland, Ohio*  
 ESTABLISHED February 2019  
 PRESIDENT Nick & Chelsea Austin

**23 Motor City**  
*Detroit, Michigan*  
 ESTABLISHED April 2019  
 PRESIDENT Russ Bruner

**24 W North Carolina**  
*Charlotte, North Carolina*  
 ESTABLISHED July 2019  
 PRESIDENT David Nein

**25 St. Louis**  
*St. Louis, Missouri*  
 ESTABLISHED August 2019  
 PRESIDENT Doug Stuart

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **LT COL DAN ROONEY**

*Founder & CEO, Folds of Honor*  
OWASSO, OK

## **DR. JOHN ROONEY**

*CEO, Rooney & Associates*  
STILLWATER, OK

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*Group President, Sedgwick*  
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TULSA, OK

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BEND, OR

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*Founding Principal, CEO, Suntex Marinas*  
DALLAS, TX

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*PGA of America Member & Past President*  
INDIAN WELLS, CA





*Phipps Family*



FOLDS *of* HONOR