

STICKS FOR SOLDIERS XIV  
THANKSGIVING CHARITY  
LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE  
HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE

STICKSFORSOLDIERS.ORG



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Wounded Serviceman Named Honoree for the 14th Annual Sticks for Soldiers Thanksgiving Charity Lacrosse Tournament on November 30th, Fairfield, CT.**

**Fairfield, Conn., November 21, 2019** – United States Army Captain (Ret) Peter Antioho has been named the honoree and beneficiary for this year's 14th annual **Sticks for Soldiers Thanksgiving Charity Lacrosse Tournament**, hosted by the Fairfield Ludlowe High School boy's lacrosse program on Saturday, November 30th. CPT Antioho sustained life-changing injuries from exposure to open burn pits while deployed in Afghanistan in 2012.

**Sticks for Soldiers** is a non-profit charity with its mission to raise money to support future needs of severely-wounded soldiers, and promote youth awareness of military service through this state-wide event. In 13 years, the tournament, which is held every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, has raised nearly \$900,000 through team entry fees, silent auction, merchandise, and corporate and private donations. This year, more than 650 boys and girls from 45 Connecticut high school teams are expected to participate and play 70 games during the one-day event. Game officials from around the state of Connecticut will donate their time as well as many volunteers from Fairfield Ludlowe High School and the surrounding communities. This is the players' opportunity to give thanks, provide support and raise awareness of our service members. The goal this year is to raise \$100,000, which will directly benefit these, and other, severely wounded honorees.

### **2019 14th Annual Honoree**

#### **United States Army Captain Peter D. Antioho**

Captain Antioho served from 2009 through 2015. He was an Infantry Officer with the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

While deployed in Afghanistan in 2012, CPT Antioho had to walk daily through heavy smoke emanating from burn pits as he performed his job as second in command on his base. A variety of items, including human and animal waste, plastic, ammunition and batteries were burned with diesel fuel 24 hours a day in open pits. He was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme brain cancer two years ago.

The West Point graduate and Berlin resident was 31 when he was diagnosed, young for this cancer. He was second in command at his base, but now, with symptoms that include memory loss and impaired vision, speech and motor function, he is unable to work.

Peter spends his days getting physical and occupational therapy at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare in Wallingford; social work and other health care at the Newington VA; and cancer care at Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven. He and his wife, his full-time caregiver, have a 3-year-old son.

Read more of Peter's story at links below:

#### **As Soldier Exposed To Burn Pits Fights For Benefits, Veterans Push For Laws**

<http://c-hit.org/2019/05/14/as-soldier-exposed-to-burn-pits-fights-for-benefits-veterans-push-for-laws/>

#### **After Denials, Army Veteran Exposed To Toxic Burn Pit Smoke Gets His Disability Benefits**

<http://c-hit.org/2019/05/31/after-denials-army-veteran-exposed-to-toxic-burn-pit-smoke-gets-his-disability-benefits/>

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**Sticks For Soldiers Leadership**

**Jeff Casucci**, President of Sticks for Soldiers and tournament chairman said of this year's event, "We are proud to have such a hero as Peter Antioho as our honoree this year. We cannot thank him and his family enough for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our community, our country and the freedoms we all enjoy. Peter serves as a shining example of the selfless dedication our service men and women exhibit every day across the world. We are honored by his presence at the Sticks for Soldiers event and hope to raise awareness of the sacrifice he has made. There is no better time than Thanksgiving weekend to thank our military personnel for their service."

**Tournament Details**

Team sign-in begins at 8:00am with first games at 9:00am. At Ludlowe's Taft Stadium, there will be a mid-day ceremony complete with a military honor guard to introduce and recognize the honoree. Participating high schools include: Fairfield Ludlowe, Fairfield Warde, Staples, Darien, Greenwich, Glastonbury, Joel Barlow, Hopkins, Pomperaug, and many more. Games will be played at Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield University Rafferty Stadium, and Tomlinson Middle School.

All are welcome to attend and admission is free. Corporate and private donations are greatly appreciated. Donations will be accepted on site at the event and can also be made through the Click & Pledge section of our homepage (found at [www.sticksforsoldiers.org](http://www.sticksforsoldiers.org)) or mailed to "**Sticks for Soldiers, Inc.**," PO Box 475, Fairfield, Conn. 06824. Additionally, there will be various great items available for Silent Auction, and commemorative T-shirts will be on sale. For more information, honoree profiles, tournament schedules, location and history, please see [www.sticksforsoldiers.org](http://www.sticksforsoldiers.org).

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**About Sticks for Soldiers**

**Sticks for Soldiers** is a non-profit high school charity which hosts a lacrosse tournament held in Fairfield, Connecticut to raise money for severely-wounded military personnel. Held on Thanksgiving Saturday, it is sponsored by the Fairfield Ludlowe High School lacrosse team. The mission of the tournament is to provide support and give thanks to the service men and women who put their lives on the line and sacrificed for our country, while raising awareness among high school athletes to the sacrifices being made by people just a few years older than they are. Through their play and fund-raising participation, the athletes demonstrate their tangible thanks and support. Originating in 2006, the idea came from long-time lacrosse advocate Mike Voucas along with support from then Fairfield Ludlowe Head Coach Chris Parisi and a number of dedicated volunteers. The tournament and related fund-raising efforts has now raised nearly \$900,000 in 13 years.

Sticks for Soldiers, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. FEIN 46-0962202. For more information go to [www.sticksforsoldiers.org](http://www.sticksforsoldiers.org)