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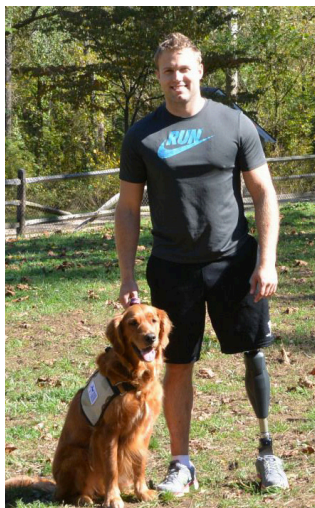


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sticks for Soldiers 3rd Annual Florida Charity Lacrosse Tournament Raises \$13,000 for Wounded Serviceman, SSG Justin Lansford.**



**Sarasota, FL., June 3, 2020 – The Sticks for Soldiers Florida Charity Lacrosse Tournament** originally scheduled for March 20–21, has raised \$13,000 for this year’s Honoree, US Army Staff Sergeant Justin Lansford. Sticks for Soldiers and hosts, Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, are proud to report that SSG Lansford has been presented with a check for \$13,000. “It is our high honor to thank Justin for his selfless service and welcome him to the Sticks for Soldiers family. His service offers a great example for everyone,” said Jeff Casucci, President of Sticks for Soldiers. “We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Kyle Donovan, Jason Laureano and all volunteers at Cardinal Mooney High School for their efforts to further the mission of supporting our wounded veterans and raising awareness of the many issues they face.”

### **2020 3rd Annual Florida Tournament Honoree**

#### **United States Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Justin Lansford**

Justin proudly served in the US Army from 2009 to 2013 as a rifleman assigned to 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. While on active-duty, Justin deployed to both Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. On April 23, 2012, Justin was severely injured when attacked with an improvised explosive device. The explosion caused SSG Lansford’s vehicle to completely overturn crushing him underneath. SSG Lansford was trapped under the burning vehicle for over 30 minutes before he could be extricated and evacuated to receive needed medical attention. As a result of this action, Justin suffered the loss of his left leg above the knee, crush injuries to his right leg, a ruptured spleen, damage to his liver and pancreas, two collapsed lungs, a broken back, and burns to his right arm, among other injuries.

While recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Justin suffered through several severe infections that extended his hospitalization. After four months of extended inpatient care, SSG Lansford was released to outpatient treatment where he continued physical therapy for almost two years. SSG Lansford retired from the Army in 2013 as a result of his injuries.

Justin has continued to serve the country and his community. Justin and his wife, Carol, are in leadership roles for Valor Service Dogs, a nonprofit organization placing mobility assistance and PTSD service dogs with wounded veterans and first responders nationwide. Justin resides in Manatee County and attends the University of South Florida in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in Nursing.

#### **Florida boys and girls high school lacrosse programs raise funds for local wounded veteran**

Participating teams include: Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, Riverview High School (Sarasota), St. Edwards School (Vero Beach), and Melbourne Central Catholic High School. We are also very pleased to welcome the girls’ teams from Cardinal Mooney High School and Riverview High School (Sarasota) to this year’s event.

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**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 14 years, Sticks for Soldiers has raised more than \$1 million through lacrosse tournaments held in Connecticut and Florida.

Sticks for Soldiers, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. FEIN 46-0962202.

**Further information can be found at:**

Website: [www.sticksforsoldiers.org](http://www.sticksforsoldiers.org)

Twitter: @sticks4soldiers

Instagram: sticks4soldiers

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