

## **"The Corporal Diffie Veterans Fund"**



was established in memory of Milwaukie resident – U.S. Marine Corps Combat Veteran Samuel Diffie, who served two tours in Afghanistan as a rifleman (SAW Gunner). With a family history of military service dating back to the

birth and formation of our great country, Samuel felt a deep desire to continue that selfless tradition of service and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in his early twenties. After completing his training, Samuel was deployed to Afghanistan (1<sup>st</sup> tour) with 3/2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion – 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines). He would return home from that deployment finding himself driven by an inner sense of duty and desire to mentor fellow Marines not yet exposed to the trials of war. Samuel would request and be granted transfer to 3/8 (3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion - 8<sup>th</sup> Marines) and was soon thereafter deployed back to Afghanistan with his new 3/8 family.

After completion of his honorable service overseas, Samuel moved to the Portland, Oregon area and settled down in the City of Milwaukie. Samuel explained his desire to live in the Northwest and his appreciation for its natural beauty stemmed from a previous fishing trip years prior. It was not uncommon for Samuel to be the first to point out the wondrous

landscape and scenery that surrounds the area.

As a Combat Veteran, Samuel would experience the troublesome gap between the need for Veteran services and their ability to quickly respond with resources and solutions. It was during such a time in June of 2017, that the Milwaukie Police and the Clackamas County Fire Department would meet Samuel. In their combined effort to help, basic needs were provided to temporarily get Samuel by until Veteran resources could be obtained. However, additional follow up with Samuel and the V.A. revealed that resources he was eligible for could not react fast enough to resolve the immediate medical and lodging issues he faced. Samuel's rent was ultimately paid by a donation through the Milwaukie Police Department to curb the housing concern, but his situation exposed the desperate need for local emergency funds to assist Veterans facing dire circumstances. This is an acknowledged **"gap"** before Veteran services can become engaged that Samuel himself hoped for future solutions to this issue.

Sadly, Samuel would unexpectedly pass in January of 2018 and was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

***In memory of Samuel's expressed desire to close the gap before Veteran services are available***, and in response to the recognized lead times required and routinely experienced by Veterans seeking assistance at the

County, State, and Federal levels, the Milwaukie American Legion Post 180 partnered with the Milwaukie Police Department's Veterans Resource Team to establish the **"Corporal Diffie Veterans Fund"**. One-hundred percent of the profits raised and donations received for the Corporal Diffie Veterans Fund go directly towards helping local Veterans in need. Funds which are intended to bridge the gap until Veteran resources can be procured through the County, Department of Veteran Affairs, or other Veterans resources.

The Milwaukie American Legion Post 180 and the Milwaukie Police Department sincerely thank you for any monetary donation made to the Corporal Diffie Veterans Fund, which goes directly towards helping our local heroes.

***Donations can be hand delivered or mailed to:***

*AMERICAN LEGION POST 180\*  
Attn. Finance Officer  
2146 SE Monroe Street  
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222*

Make checks payable to:

***AMERICAN LEGION POST 180***

*In the Memo section of the check write, "CPL. DIFFIE VETERANS FUND" so that your donation is allocated to the correct account.*

*\*The Milwaukie American Legion Post 180 is a federally chartered non-profit organization and all contributions and donations are tax deductible at the fullest extent of existing laws. The Post's federal tax identification number is 23-7026046.*