

# MEET THE 2025 WARRIORS

**DARREN BARBER** enlisted in the Army directly out of high school and dedicated his career to serving in the U.S. military, beginning as an Army Ranger. From the outset, Darren embraced the rigorous training and demanding standards of the Ranger Regiment, developing a strong foundation in leadership, combat skills, and operational excellence. Darren's early years of service instilled a deep sense of discipline and commitment that guided him throughout his career.

"My time as a Ranger led me to serve as an Infantry Drill Sergeant, shaping the next generation of soldiers and instilling core military values," he said. "I also had the honor of serving as a Ranger Instructor at the renowned U.S. Army Ranger School, where I contributed to developing elite warfighters."

Darren's journey in Special Operations was marked by a series of challenging and prestigious assignments. After completing the demanding Special Forces Qualification Course, he earned the Green Beret and went on to lead diverse specialized teams, including a Military Free Fall Detachment, a Maritime Operations Detachment and a Regional Survey Detachment across Africa, where he executed complex missions in diverse environments.

Darren's career culminated by leading the 1st Information Operations Command, where he was responsible for strategic communication and information warfare operations.

"Throughout my service, I demonstrated adaptability and a commitment to excellence across a wide range of missions and environments," he said. "My military journey reflects a lifelong dedication to defending the nation and advancing the capabilities of the United States Armed Forces in some of the most challenging and dynamic operational contexts."

This is Darren's first year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors. His current golf handicap is 18.



**KYLE BRODWATER** began his military career in 2011, serving multiple deployments aboard the USS Springfield (SSN-761) as an Electronics Technician and Scuba Diver. Following his sea tour, he spent a shore tour attached to the Submarine Surveillance and Equipment Program, where he played a key role in certifying electronic warfare systems across the Atlantic Fleet submarine force. Kyle completed two deployments to the U.S. European Command and the U.S. Central Command. Kyle now serves as the Electronic Warfare Fleet Support Program Manager at the

Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) in Newport, Rhode Island, overseeing the sustainment, modernization, and mission readiness of critical EW capabilities for the U.S. submarine fleet.

This is Kyle's first year participating in Wimps vs Warriors and his current golf handicap is 20.



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**JUSTIN CASTELLANOS** served in the U.S. Army, 1st Ranger Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment from 2006 to 2010. The 1st Ranger Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment is a Special Operations Unit and conducts direct action missions in hostile or sensitive environments targeting high value targets. The Regiment can deploy one Ranger battalion within 18 hours of alert notification. Justin served four combat deployments – three to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. Justin was a fire team leader his last two deployments. Since 2012, Justin has served as a Boston firefighter.

Justin was a member of the U.S. Simpson Cup team in 2022 and 2024 and just qualified for the 2025 Simpson Cup team which will be played September 28-October 1 at Royal St. George's and Princes Golf Club in Kent, England.

This is Justin's second year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 11.3.



**CRAWFORD "COLE" PAULK** joined the U.S. Navy in November 2007 as a Submarine Electronics Technician (Communications). In 2009, he deployed on the first Virginia Class submarine multi-theater deployment, completing two overseas missions. In 2012, Cole joined the Submarine Surveillance Equipment Program (SSEP) and became the Leading Petty Officer (LPO) in 2013.

Cole led several overseas certifications and qualified as Master Certification Specialist in 2015. In October 2016, Cole received an Honorable Discharge from the Navy as a First Class Petty Officer (E-6). Currently Cole works on Periscope and Imaging Systems supporting the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) in Newport, Rhode Island.

This is Cole's second year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 20.

**JONATHAN "JAY" PHINISEY** is originally from Tacoma, Washington, and joined the U.S. Army in 2011 as a 19D Cavalry Scout assigned to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Riley, Kansas. Early in his career, Jay was selected to be part of a specialized infantry dog handler program known as TEDD (Tactical Explosive Detection Dog).

Jay trained in Kokomo, Indiana, where he was paired with his canine partner, Toki (R535). Together, they deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 with Task Force Dragon, operating in Regional Command East. Unfortunately, after their deployment, Toki—being a contract working dog rather than a military-owned asset—was sold to another agency.





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After three years of persistent searching, and with the support of "Justice for TEDD Handlers," Jay was able to locate Toki working for a police department in Franklinton, North Carolina. The department graciously transferred ownership to Jay, and Toki was officially retired.

After serving seven years as an enlisted soldier, Jay returned to his original passion: aviation. In 2018, Jay attended Army flight school and was selected for the "Fixed Wing for Life" program. Since then, he has flown airplanes for the Army and is currently assigned to the U.S. Army Priority Air Transport (USAPAT), flying out of Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

This is Jay's first time participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 10.3.

**SERGEANT (RET.) SCOTT RIDDLE** was deployed in 2007 and was injured in a vehicle rollover in Iraq November 2008. Scott suffered a broken neck and back and a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and spent three years in Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the defense brain injury center. Scott was medically retired from the Army due to his serious injuries. In 2016, Scott was diagnosed with incurable Non-Hodgkin lymphoma from the burn pit smoke in Iraq. He underwent four years of chemotherapy and had infusions for 16 hours every three weeks.

Following his treatment, Scott picked up golf. Scott is married with four children and lives less than a mile from Talbot Country Club. This is Scott's second year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 13.



**COMMANDER (RET.) ALLEN RICHMOND** is the newly hired co-Retreat Director of Patriot Point, a position he shares with his wife, Robin, a 24-year Navy veteran. Originally from Williston, North Dakota, he enlisted in the Navy and rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer before commissioning as a Navy Mustang. He served 32 years on multiple aircraft carriers and installations around the world before recently retiring. Allen graduated with a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland Global Campus while stationed in Japan.



**LOGAN RIPPONS** has worked as a police officer for the city of Cambridge, Maryland, for nine years and has been a Certified K9 trainer for three years. Logan is currently a sergeant on the Patrol Division running the K9 program and previously spent four years of his career on the SWAT team. In his off-duty hours, Logan serves as the hunting manager at Patriot Point. This is Logan's second year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 23.

**SERGEANT MAJOR (RET.) MATTHEW SAVAGE** is a 21-year U.S. Army veteran who began his military career in 2003 at the age of 18. A native of Florida, Matthew grew up skateboarding and surfing, developing a love for snowboarding during winter trips to North Carolina and Tennessee. His passion for extreme sports naturally led him to request Airborne School, ultimately earning his place as a U.S. Army Paratrooper. Matt deployed multiple times to Afghanistan and Iraq, with his first deployment in 2005 resulting in a traumatic brain injury (TBI) from a mortar attack. Over the course of his career, he was diagnosed with numerous TBIs, as well as degenerative disc disease in his lower back.

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One particularly severe incident occurred during an Airborne operation when he was knocked unconscious mid-air after striking the aircraft upon exit. Despite these challenges, Matthew completed more than 150 static-line jumps and more than 300 military free-fall jumps. He holds the distinction of being the only Career Counselor in Army history to graduate from both Military Free Fall School and Military Free Fall Jumpmaster School. He also earned his coach rating in skydiving and served in critical leadership roles such as Primary Jumpmaster and Drop Zone Safety Officer.

Since 2008, Matthew served in Army recruiting and retention, where his dedication to helping others find purpose and service became the driving force of his career. After experiencing worsening physical and cognitive symptoms following a deployment to Iraq in 2020, he sought care through Walter Reed's TBI clinic in 2021, where he began a journey of healing and rehabilitation.

Through Walter Reed's Adaptive Sports Program, Matthew learned how to golf and rediscovered his love for snowboarding – activities that became instrumental in his recovery. After retiring from the Army in 2024, he found new purpose as a golf caddie at one of America's top private country clubs and as an adaptive ski and snowboard instructor with Challenge Aspen in Colorado. Today, Matthew continues to serve others by mentoring fellow veterans and advocating for recovery through sport. He is passionate about spreading awareness of the resources available to help wounded warriors find strength, purpose, and joy through adaptive athletics and community.

This is Matt's second year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 16.7.



**MASTER SERGEANT (RET.) JEROME T. TAYLOR** served with distinction in the U.S. Army, dedicating more than two decades to military service before retiring in 2005. Jerome's extensive career encompassed multiple specialized roles, including service in the Ranger Regiment (1st and 2nd Battalion) Special Forces and the Joint Special Operations Command. Jerome's military education was comprehensive, completing numerous advanced courses including Special Forces training, Ranger training, Military Freefall, Airborne training, Jungle training, Drill Instructor training and various leadership development programs that prepared him for the demanding responsibilities of special operations.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom (November 2004-January 2005), Jerome served with Special Operations Command in Fallujah, Iraq, where he participated in direct combat operations during one of the most intense periods of the conflict. His exemplary performance under hostile fire earned him the Combat



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Infantryman Badge, recognizing his active participation in ground combat. Jerome's meritorious service in Iraq was further recognized with the Bronze Star Medal, awarded by Major General Stanley A. McChrystal in March 2005 for his exceptional achievement in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jerome was a top qualifier and made Team USA for the 2025 Simpson Cup which will be played September 28-October 1 at Royal St. George's and Princes Golf Club in Kent, England.

This is Jerome's second year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 9.6.

**ELISEO "ELI" VILLANUEVA** is a retired master sergeant with 22 years of service in the Army. The majority of his military career was spent at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with three tours of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division and he served the last 11 years of active duty with a Special Missions Unit within the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Eli's combat deployments include Operation Just Cause (Panama), Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom (5 Deployments), and Operation Enduring Freedom.

He is a member of the On Course Foundation USA, and was a member of Team USA during the 2023 and 2024 Simpson Cup competition. On Course Foundation has provided many opportunities through golf and/or work experiences in the golf industry as a form of therapy to combat depression and anxiety as a result of suffering from PTSD. Eli is also an adaptive golfer who competed in the first four USGA Adaptive Open championships. In 2023, he won the Inaugural Florida Adaptive Open championship and successfully defended his title in 2024. Golf has made a huge impact in his recovery from PTSD. He and his wife Juvilee have been married for almost 29 years and they have two sons, Christian (28), and Andrew (23).

Eli was just selected to be a member of Team USA for the 2025 Simpson Cup which will be played September 28-October 1 at Royal St. George's and Princes Golf Club in Kent, England.

This is Eli's second year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 2.3.

**CHARLES YOUNG JR.** joined the Navy on Sept 8, 2001 and was stationed on the USS Newport News (SSN-750) and USS Georgia (SSGN-729). After completing tours on both submarines and four deployments, he then was assigned to a Strategic Communications detachment where he supported nuclear command and control. From there, Charles went to Naval Special Warfare and served 11 months in Afghanistan where he was injured and reassigned to the USS West Virginia (SSBN-736). Charles medically retired after 14 ½ years of service and now is a government employee at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Charles was a top qualifier and made Team USA for the 2025 Simpson Cup which will be played September 28-October 1 at Royal St. George's and Princes Golf Club in Kent, England.

This is Charles' first year participating in Wimps vs. Warriors and his current golf handicap is 9.4.

