



1st QUARTER  
APRIL 2020



# Sempre Avanti

10th Mountain Division Foundation

## 61st Annual Memorial Day Ceremony Cancelled

With reports indicating the current pandemic will continue through May, the 10th Mountain Division Foundation has announced the cancellation of the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Memorial Day Ceremony scheduled for Monday, May 25 at Tennessee Pass in Colorado.

**We will honor our veterans** with a short ceremony and place a single wreath at the veterans memorial at noon. Please see our [Facebook page](#) for more information in the coming weeks. Please consider ways you and your family can personally honor our veterans and those who sacrificed their lives to preserve the FREEDOM we cherish.

## Board of Directors

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Sgt. Maj. Ret. Jim Redmore:  
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of 10th Mountain Division  
Lt. Col. Ret. Joseph "Sepp" Scanlin  
Denise Taylor: President,  
Descendants Association

## These Challenging Times

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has presented some challenging times for all of us. The mountains have been quieted during this transformative time of quarantine. Yet even during this unfamiliar landscape, the 10th Mountain Division Foundation has much to be grateful for as well as a bright future of service to our 10th Mountain Family.

**My optimism lies** in the incredible partnerships the Foundation has developed over the past few years. In particular, a new level of engagement with our outdoor experience and recreation industry partners has presented increasing opportunities for the Foundation to service our Veterans and War Fighters. It is my honor to share these programs, some in their inaugural year, that were executed before COVID-19 derailed the winter sports season.

**Please take time to learn more** about our incredible partners and consider how you would like to add your support to these programs. I look with hope to life beyond the pandemic. I am confident the mountains will come alive and call us, once again, to carry on the outdoor legacy of the 10th Mountain Divisions individually and collectively.

Be Safe Be Well!

*Sempre Avanti,*

Nancy Kramer, President

## Partner Programs

### Weston Backcountry



The 10th Mountain Division Foundation has been working closely with Weston Backcountry and their team member former Navy SEAL Josh Jespersen to build a foundation of veteran mountain guides and outdoor facilitators.

**Josh and Silverton Avalanche School** held a one-of-a-kind veteran Avalanche Level I course to foster this group. We believe in continuing the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division that built the base of the outdoor industry, and integrating a framework to continue aiding transition-

ing service members to a fulfilling civilian life. "Now come on all you ridge runners, get the lead out!"

The inaugural class included:

**Michael Rick-**  
**er,** Ranger,  
10th MNT

**Micah Ful-**  
**mer,** USMC

Recon Army Sniper, 10th MNT

**Trey Dominick,** USMC Scout Sniper, 10th MNT

**Ian Slusher,** 10th MNT

**Jordan Zdanek,** 10th MNT



10th Mountain Division Foundation

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★ Climb to Glory ★

## Spotlight: Jeff Wiles



The 10th Mountain Division Foundation salutes Jeff Wiles of Vail Resorts. Jeff became increasingly interested in the history and legacy of the 10th Mountain Division several years ago after visiting with Descendant and Foundation Treasurer Joy Ellison at the annual 10th Mountain Ski-In day at Vail.

Joy referred Jeff to Foundation Historian Dave Little to learn more. Building on his growing passion for the compelling story of the 10th, Jeff conceptualized and promoted a 10th Mountain Legacy event to the Town of Vail and Vail Resorts.

Upon their endorsement, Jeff built additional partnerships with the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Museum, 10th Mountain Alpine Group and others to establish an authentic 10th Mountain Division Parade in 2019. The event brings to life the vision of WWII 10th Mountain Division Soldiers Pete Seibert, Bob Parker and Sarge Brown, who were a part of Vail's legacy.

Vail Resorts honored Jeff with an Epic Service award in 2019. The Foundation is profoundly grateful to Jeff for his passion and dedication to sharing the story of the 10th Mountain Division.

## Partner Programs, con't.

### PSIA-AASI Scholarship

In partnership with the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, a new scholarship program will provide active and non-active military with education/certification opportunities that support them as they transition to and pursue a



career pathway in the outdoor industry. This scholarship will help individuals offset expenses and obtain membership with either PSIA-AASI or National Ski Patrol (NSP). In the inaugural year, \$5,400 was awarded to 10 individuals seeking a scholarship.

### STRIDE Wounded Warriors

STRIDE marked its 15<sup>th</sup> year of serving Wounded Warriors during the annual Wounded Warrior Snowfest March 5-8. STRIDE welcomed 12



new Wounded Warrior participants along with six select returning alumni Wounded Warrior mentors for a weekend of therapeutic snowsports at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, MA.

### Disabled Sports USA

A new partnership with Disabled Sports USA emerged this year. Through its sponsorship of the Warfighter program, 10th Mountain Division Foundation funds help severely disabled veterans attend the Ski Spectacular in



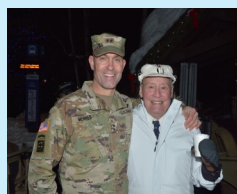
Breckenridge, a week-long winter adaptive sports



camp in December that typically includes 100 wounded warfighters.

## Major Gen. Mennes Attends Legacy Events in Vail

Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division, Major General Brain Mennes, along with Sergeant Major Samuel J. Roark and a contingent of soldiers from Fort Drum, traveled to Colorado in February.



The "Legacy" trip included stops at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Library at Denver Public Library and

History Colorado to view the 10th Mountain Division artifact collection. The group then traveled to Vail, where they participated in the Vail Legacy parade and a staff ride at Camp Hale led by Dave Little, Foundation Historian.

The visit culminated with a celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Riva Ridge with a group ski down Vail's run named in honor of the Italian landmark.



The celebratory ski group included Major General Michael A. Loh, Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard, and Foundation Chairman Trux Dole.

