

The Yellow Ribbon Fund Honors It's Founders, **John Adams, David Branson, Denis Neill and Edward Quinn, Jr.**, at Their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala.



The Yellow Ribbon Fund's 2018 Honorees (left to right), John Adams, Denis Neill, Ed Quinn, Jr — And David Branson (not pictured) started YRF in 2005.

The YRF Gala was held at the Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland. The theme of the event was the “**Roots of the Ribbon**” referring to both the founders as roots of YRF and the military family caregivers who act as the roots of their families, anchoring them as they navigate their loved ones’ medical challenges.



Celebrating with the founders, were their families and special guests including **Carol Bugg**, the widow of **Jim Bugg**, YRF’s first Chairman of the Board. Many guests in attendance—service members as well as donors-- had fond memories of the founders and their work and were there to help us honor them.



**WJLA's Autria Godfrey**, longtime supporter of YRF, served as the wonderful

emcee for the night. **U.S. Army Captain Luis Avila** honored us with a moving rendition of God Bless America to start things on a high note. The keynote address was given by **U.S. Army First Sergeant Matt Eversmann (Ret.)**, the hero of the Battle of Mogadishu, who was portrayed by Josh Harnett in the film *Black Hawk Down*. Matt spoke about the sacrifices service members have made and continue to make around the world and how YRF has impacted **at least 20%** of those injured in the War on Terror. **U.S. Army Sergeant Adam Keys (Ret.)** followed with a hilarious comedy routine that earned him a standing ovation. Adam has an incredibly positive outlook on life despite his severe combat injuries. He's able to inspire others by poking fun at his own circumstances and always



looking for the bright side. He proves laughter is indeed the best medicine.

Board member Vito Pampalona, affectionately known as "Uncle Vito" by patients and staff at Walter Reed, closed out the night with a special request: to raise enough money to expand YRF's Keystone Program for caregivers in even more locations throughout the U.S. With a room full of friends and partners, YRF raised an additional \$100,000 for the support of these hidden heroes!



Events like the Yellow Ribbon Fund Gala help support the service members, their caregivers and their families as they

navigate medical crises and reintegrate into their home communities.

Thanks to all who made the Roots of the Ribbon such a success! Your support makes a difference in the lives of service members who have sacrificed so much in service to our country!

## Gala Photo Gallery

The Yellow Ribbon Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on tax exempt gifts, is dedicated to helping Post-9-11 active-duty and veteran service members who were catastrophically wounded or suffered serious injuries or illnesses. YRF provides free housing and transportation (including apartments, hotels and rental cars) through its Crossroads Program and peer-to-peer support, networking opportunities and life-skills training, and family-bonding, fitness and wellness activities for military caregivers through its Keystone Program.

