



GIRE HOUSE

THE HEROES AND THE UNSUNG HEROES



Join us in building a community where healing begins, hope grows, and sacrifice is never forgotten.

OUR CAUSE

The Heroes and the Unsung Heroes

Real heroes don't wear capes, and they don't rely on superpowers. If they did, they would still be here with us today.

Instead, they choose something far greater: duty, honor, and country. They step forward into the unknown, leaving behind everything they hold dear to stand on the military's frontlines to protect our freedom. Side-by-side with brothers and sisters forged in battle, they face the unimaginable. We mourn them, we honor them, and we revere their ultimate sacrifice. Yet no matter how much we give in return, it will never be enough.



OUR FOUNDATION

The Legacy Behind Gire House: SSG Joshua Gire

Every refuge has a foundation. Gire House is built upon the extraordinary legacy of Staff Sergeant Joshua Gire.

SSG Gire was a Squad Leader and Truck Commander who led from the front. On March 22, 2011, in the Tangi Valley of Logar Province, Afghanistan, his Route Clearance Patrol was tasked with the most dangerous job on the battlefield:

clearing roads of improvised explosive devices so others could move safely. After completing their mission, SSG Gire's vehicle was ambushed on its return to base. Neither SSG Gire nor his driver, PFC Michael Mahr, survived the attack.

Both men died as they lived, leading from the front to protect those behind them.

- SSG Joshua Gire was 28 years old. A third-generation soldier following in the footsteps of his WWII grandfather and Vietnam veteran father, Joshua lived to make his family proud. He left behind his devoted wife, Jackie, and two young children, Nicholas (5) and Riley (2).
- PFC Michael Mahr left behind his loving wife, Stephanie, and his son, Jadon (3).



When Joshua was brought home to Chillicothe, Ohio, Main Street transformed into a corridor of sacred honor. Yellow ribbons fluttered from trees, fire trucks crossed ladders in salute, and crowds lined the streets in solemn respect.

At Arlington National Cemetery where SSG Gire was buried with highest honors, six white horses pulled the caisson bearing his casket as a muffled

drum beat cadence. For his valor, Joshua was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. As the military band played "America the Beautiful," six soldiers folded the American flag with razor-sharp precision before presenting it to Jackie.



*The Bronze Star and Purple Heart,
awarded posthumously to
SSG Joshua Gire.*

THE ONES LEFT BEHIND

There is another force of unsung heroes walking among us who are the families, friends, and comrades-in-arms of the fallen. They are quietly fighting relentless battles every single day. These are the heroes who are left behind. They carry the weight of an empty chair at the dinner table. They are the mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons, daughters, and fellow soldiers missing a piece of their soul. They are the ones who cry silently into their pillows. They carry survivor's guilt, haunted by memories that refuse to fade even in their dreams. Unseen by most, these quiet heroes press forward, putting one foot in front of the other, striving to heal.

FROM SACRIFICE TO SANCTUARY

Carrying The Legacy Forward

Gold Star families carry forward the living legacy of their military hero's sacrifice with quiet strength and enduring purpose.

During World War I, families hung service flags in their windows featuring a blue star for every loved one serving in uniform. If that loved one made the ultimate sacrifice, the blue star was replaced with gold.

While our nation offers vital benefits and formal recognition to Gold Star families on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Gold Star Mother's Day, government programs cannot heal a broken heart. The hardest battles don't happen during official ceremonies; they happen on ordinary days. They happen on the quiet afternoons when loss feels overwhelming, when a dynamic future turns into a cherished memory, and when you need someone who truly understands what was given for this nation. On those days, you hold tight to faith and search for a community that understands.

Visiting a loved one at Arlington National Cemetery is a profound, heart-wrenching journey. Imagine stepping off those sacred grounds and entering a welcoming haven just blocks away, a place designed specifically to bind wounds, reunite comrades, and give these silent heroes a refuge to honor their own in peace.

"That sanctuary is Gire House."

FROM SACRIFICE TO STRENGTH

The Mission of Gire House

Across 250 years of American history, nearly 1.45 million service members have laid down their lives for this republic.

SSG Joshua Gire represents every single one of them, and his family represents the thousands of families navigating the sudden, shattering aftermath of war. Military service instills humility and quiet resolve. Our veterans and Gold Star families rarely ask for help, even when bearing immense heartbreak. Gire House exists to bridge that gap serving as a sacred space where combat veterans and Gold Star families can gather, share their unspoken stories, lean on one another, and transform grief into lasting strength. It gives the rest of us a tangible way to say: We see you, we honor you, and you will never walk alone.



A place to gather, remember, and heal — just blocks from Arlington National Cemetery.

Together, we can turn sacrifice into sanctuary and healing into strength.

“To honor the fallen by supporting those they left behind. Gire House offers a home where Gold Star Families and combat veterans, bound by sacrifice, can reunite, reflect, and gain strength and healing in one another.”

STORIES OF STRENGTH AND HEALING

Testimonials



“I never knew how much I needed to be around other veterans to grieve and remember our lost brothers until we all gathered at Gire House. The memories are always present and having your brothers in arms ride the waves with you makes all the difference...”

“...Having a base—a house, a safe place for all of us to gather—was the key to the entire trip. We spent almost a week there with the families of our fallen, following a full daily schedule designed to honor them in the best way we could. Every night, stories were told and retold around “our table” because, for those few days, this had truly become our family home.

“Thank you to Gire House, and may God always watch over and bless our fallen and their families.”

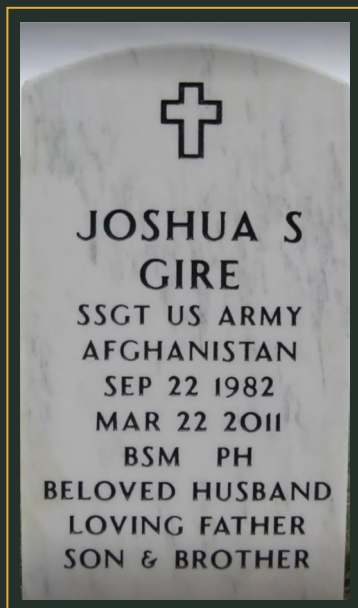
— Stephen Quarles

JOIN THE MISSION

Stand With Us | Become a Cornerstone Member

We are calling on you to help us build this home of healing and honor where families and combat veterans gather, remember, and heal in a safe haven just blocks from Arlington National Cemetery.

- **Become a Cornerstone Member:**
For just \$15 a month, you directly ensure that Gold Star families and combat veterans have a place of refuge when visiting Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Make a Direct Gift:** Support our launch campaign and help us open these doors.



Join us in Creating Change!

At Gire House Inc., we know that change starts with people like you. Every act of kindness, every dollar, and every moment of your time brings us closer to achieving our mission.

How you can help power our mission:

- **Donate:** Every dollar counts. Contribute now to help us reach our goal.
- **Share:** Share our campaign with your friends, family, and on social media.
- **Volunteer:** Your time and skills can make an impact too.

Support the Gire House Mission at girehouse.com

THE HEART OF OUR MISSION

Contact Us



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Veteran



Jackie Gire
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Gold Star Spouse / Accountant



Michele Struffolino
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