

# "BEYOND THE LIGHTS", BEYOND THE RAIN

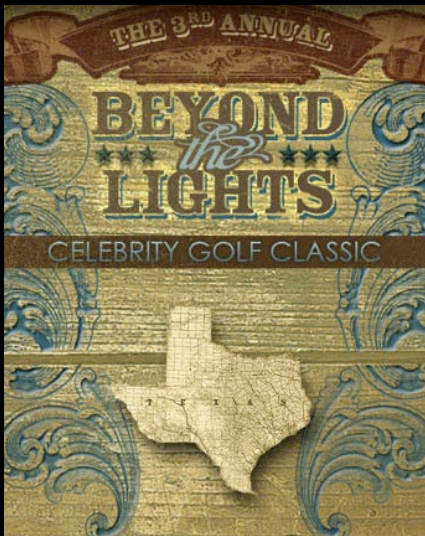
FIVE WISHES GRANTED AT CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT  
BENEFITTING PARALYSIS RESEARCH



May 14, 2010

**WISHES #28-32**

Austin, TX



So many of our wishes are based on hardship circumstances, but we are always thrilled when we get a chance to grant a fun wish where military members can get away from their everyday lives and really enjoy themselves. This time, we got to grant 5 at the same time!

On May 13th and 14th, we attended the "Beyond the Lights" Celebrity Golf Outing in Austin, hosted by Kyle Chandler and Brad Leland of NBC's *Friday Night Lights*. The annual event benefits paralysis research, and brings together celebrities from television, movies, sports and more. From the people organizing the event, to those in attendance, Beyond the Lights is a class act from start to finish.

This year, Kyle Chandler graciously partnered with *Wish For Our Heroes* to arrange for two wish recipients to play in the tournament and essentially have an all expenses paid trip to Austin, a value of \$1,500 per person. After receiving so many submissions through our site, we increased the number of wish recipients to five.

**SSG Bryan Arbic** is an active-duty NCO in the U.S. Army and is stationed at Fort Hood, TX. He has served two tours in Iraq, one year in 2003 and one year in 2008. He has been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in September 2003, when his vehicle struck a landmine and he was hit in the head and arm by shrapnel. He was also awarded the Bronze Star for service as a Squad Leader during his tour in 2008, specifically for his actions during an ambush by a militia in Baghdad.



Bryan pictured with Kyle Chandler →



**TSgt Joseph Cummings** of the US Air Force lives in San Antonio and is in his 13th year in the military. An avid golfer, Joe was "once" a 6 handicap in high school, being named to the 2nd KSAC All-Conference Team in 1994. In regards to paralysis research, Joe explained, "Raising my Autistic son has really opened my eyes to what so many parents go through and how precious our children really are."

← Joe wearing Dave Campo's Super Bowl Ring (Dallas Cowboys Defensive Back Coach)

**SGT Grant Farmer** is an E5 in the Army National Guard. He currently resides in Grand Island, NY, and is a pilot for Dr Andrew Cappuccino, one of the premier spinal surgeons, developing and bringing visibility to spinal cord research and treatment. Grant flies Dr. Cappuccino from city to city so he can teach other surgeons new techniques and treatments. Grant has served three tours in Afghanistan, and has an extensive list of medals and accomplishments ranging from multiple Army Air Medals to a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Grant hitting the links with W4OH President, Jeff Wells →



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**TSgt Alex Kuh** of the US Air Force lives in San Antonio and is a huge fan of *Friday Night Lights*! In fact, his wish submission started with "Clear Eyes, Full Hearts", which requires no explanation if you know the show.

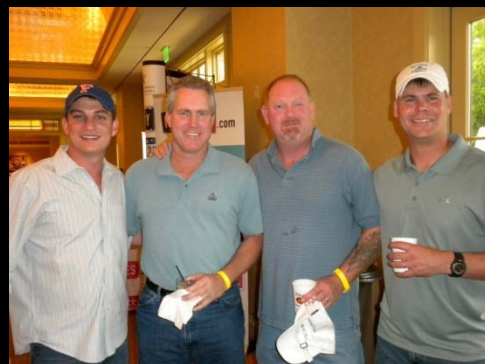
His wife, Janna, is also active-duty Air Force, and the couple was recently deployed at the same time, leaving two children at home without their parents. Alex just returned from deployment, so he, Janna, and their two children were able to spend a fun weekend together in Austin for "Beyond the Lights".

← *Janna, Mack Brown (Texas Longhorns coach), and Alex*

**SFC Anthony Rives** is also stationed at Fort Hood, and has deployed four times. He most recently returned in December, and received a Purple Heart for his actions. Alison, his wife of eight years, has withstood the many deployments plus his two-and-a-half year stint as a drill sergeant.

Tony had a great time at the event, and as a token of appreciation, he presented Kyle Chandler with his tank commander's helmet from his most recent deployment.

*Jeff Wells, Jim Sayers, Bo Brister and Tony Rives* →



"Beyond the Lights" was held at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa in Austin, and this proved to be the event's largest year. Most of the participants arrived Thursday evening, which gave us a chance to meet most of the wish recipients. All enjoyed live music, a horseshoe tournament, and good company.

On Friday, golfers met for breakfast, and later dispersed to the driving range or met their favorite celebrities. Mack Brown, Terrence Newman, Roy Williams, Dave Campo, Connie Britton, and Tony Romo were just a few of the celebrities in attendance.

Although severe thunderstorms ended play after most had only finished the first hole, the fun continued through the day, and thousands of dollars were raised for spinal cord research (total not determined by the time this was published).



*Jeff and Kevin Doyle  
(our favorite web designer!)*



*Hosts Kyle Chandler and Brad  
Leland*



*Jeff and Cowboys QB,  
Tony Romo*

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Congratulations to all of our wish recipients who participated in this memorable event. Honorable people and a wonderful cause - a mix that will bring us back year after year!



*Wish recipients with Kyle Chandler, Jeff Wells (W4OH President), and Kristen Stonecipher (W4OH Director of Marketing).*