

Fighting Back against Post Traumatic Stress

pay it forward

Courtesy photos

No one would argue that PTSD, also known as PTSI (Post Traumatic Stress Injury), can be debilitating, and even deadly for veterans. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, between 11 and 20 percent of veterans who have returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom come home with post traumatic stress. For Gulf War veterans, the number is 12 percent, and for Vietnam vets, the number is a whopping 30 percent, according to the National Veterans Readjustment Study.

Sadly, according to the DVA, a veteran of the U.S. Military will commit suicide every 65 minutes, many of these men and women will be under the care of the Veterans Administration at the time, but are unable to find relief from their trauma-related injuries.

These tragic statistics call for out-of-the-box thinking. Chris Miller of Ojai recently spoke of a promising treatment that isn't new, but it's new insofar as treating PTSI. Chris brought the Global Post Traumatic Stress Injury Foundation to the attention of area residents, who are garnering support for the foundation that offers treatment for what Founder, Doctor Eugene Lipov, considers a 'physical' injury. The procedure is called Stellate Ganglion Block, which in some cases has shown a reduction of PTSI symptoms.



Jim Cusack and Mark DeBruin



Cindy, Ryan, Chris and Haylee Miller worked hard to put on this successful PTSI fundraiser



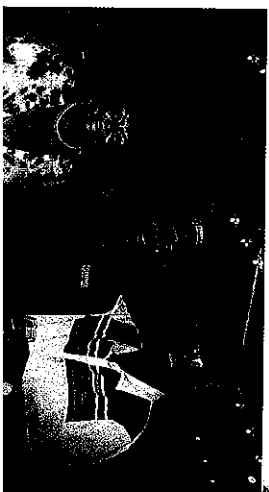
Cindy Miller and Tanya Avram get the guys all checked in for a great day of golf



John Landberg with Dr. Lipov



Dr. Eugene Lipov and Rick Cantwell



Steve Hunter, Jr. with dad Steve Hunter, Sr.



Veteran, Ken F about the treatment saved his life

"There's a high occupational hazard along with all military service," Ken says, the best training, the best leaders - I would ever be a veteran who would problem. But our men and women come from combat, and people think they're reintegrate into society. They have been out of Iraq and Afghanistan and other areas. Re-integration is hard, and it's deploy as a unit, but you return as an individual.

Ken describes receiving the injection a sudden, feeling grace." He also describes a sensation of clarity - a feeling that experienced for 40 years prior. The injection saved his life.

Richard Cantwell, Lieutenant Colonel PTSI Foundation's board chairman

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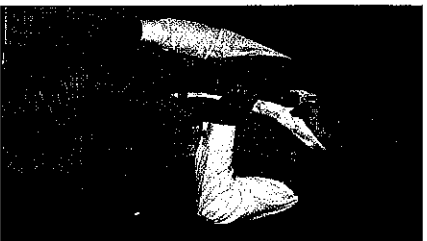
Headboard

Made





Steve Hunter, Jr. with dad Steve Hunter, Sr.



Veteran, Ken Robinson, speaks about the treatment that saved his life

"There's a high occupational hazard that goes along with all military service," Ken said. "I had the best training, the best leaders - I didn't think I would ever be a veteran who would have a problem. But our men and women come home from combat, and people think they should just reintegrate into society. They have been in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan and other conflict areas. Re-integration is hard, and it's painful. You deploy as a unit, but you return as an individual."

Ken describes receiving the injection as "all of a sudden, feeling grace." He also described his sensation of clarity - a feeling that he hadn't experienced for 40 years prior. He said the injection saved his life.

Richard Cantwell, Lieutenant Colonel, ret., PTSI Foundation's board chairman and for-

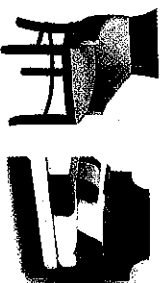
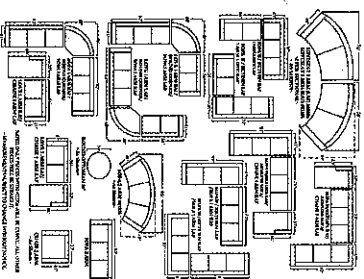


mer Delta Force member, explained that our nation knows how to treat veterans' obvious physical wounds. But we don't have much for the over one million vets who are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Injuries. "This protocol is being used as an interim treatment, and our foundation has identified 31 cities that have the proper people and equipment - we just need to raise funds for the actual procedures," he said.

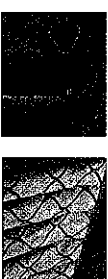
Dr. Lipov explained that hundreds of people in various studies at Johns Hopkins have received the treatment and the PTSI Foundation has treated over 2,500 veterans, with higher than a 75-percent success rate. To learn more about the foundation, visit globalptsifoundation.org.

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