

A Life Worth Celebrating

Stories of an Organization Serving the Children of our Gold Star Families

This book is about A Soldier's Child (ASC) Foundation Founding Director Daryl JW Mackin, and how he was inspired to launch the nationwide nonprofit ASC after his neighbors lost their son in Iraq in March, 2007. A story of one man's personal journey through trials and hardship and how he was able to put a good intention into action that has led a nationwide effort in caring for American military orphans.

Marc was the son of his neighbors (Henry and Fay Golczynski) and a fallen marine of the Iraq war. Also on his wall was the very moving picture of Marc's son Christian, receiving his father flag at his father's funeral. This photo won photo of the year and traveled throughout the world. His heart turned to Christian Golczynski and the other children like Christian who will never be able to have a party planned by their dad. It all began from there.

Marc said "Don't feel sorry for us, we are warriors and as warriors that have gone before us, we fight and sometimes die so our families don't have to. Stand besides us, we would do it for you."

The inspiration of "A Soldiers Child" Foundation came while founder Daryl JW Mackin was preparing for his own son's surprise birthday party. Like most parents, Daryl got caught up in all of the "chores" to pull off his son's celebration. While sitting at his computer, he quickly lost sight of the joy of the moment. On his wall, Daryl had a memorial of Staff Sgt. Marc Golczynski.

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There are many children like Christian that will never receive another birthday gift from their father/mother because they gave their life while defending our freedoms. Christian was the first ASC child.

U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Marcus Andrew "Marc" Golczynski (Christian's father) wrote this in a letter to his mother shortly before he left for war. *"We are warriors and as warriors that have gone before us, we fight and sometimes die so that our families don't have to... Stand beside us, because we would do it for you, it is our unity that has allowed us to prosper as a nation"* **This is the intention of "ASC"**

It is with the heart felt conviction to care for the children who have lost a military parent that ASC has grown. Many of these children are suffering and for the most part, they are not on our nation's radar. ASC believes it is not our government or military's responsibility to care for our American "military" widows and orphans. It is those of us who live free with our kids and extended families. The 99% of us that do not bear the burden of defending our family's freedom.

We are the ones with a debt to pay; we have a responsibility in sowing love, honor and hope into these kids' lives. By doing so, we stand alongside them as they learn to overcome adversity and live a courageous life.

Since the beginning of our nation, those who have been left in the wake of losing a military parent have always asked "Did it really matter, and does anyone even care? This book paves the way so you too can be an agent of change for America's invisible children, our national treasure: The Children of our Fallen Defenders of Freedom.

About the Author

Daryl JW Mackin is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. He has over 30 years of experience in the food service Industry.

In 1979, Daryl began his cooking career in the U.S. Navy, where he served for 6 years. He served on 5 naval vessels including the Aircraft Carrier USS Nimitz. Daryl taught high school culinary arts for 18 years. Daryl founded the nonprofit A Soldier's Child Foundation in 2008 after his neighbor's son Marine Staff Sargent Marcus Golczynski was killed by sniper fire in Iraq. In 2012 he resigned from teaching to manage A Soldier's Child (ASC) Foundation full time. Daryl believes it is the responsibility of the average American citizen to show love, honor and hope to the children and families of our fallen heroes.

On June 2, 2008 Daryl and others celebrated ASC's first birthday child, Marc's son Christian Golczynski, who at that time turned 10 years old. Over the past 8 years, ASC has grown and is now serving over 2500 children in all 50 states and expects to exceed 3000 children by the end of 2017.

Daryl JW Mackin has been married since 1995 to his wonderful wife JoJo and he is a father of three; son Zachariah and twins Malakai and Nadia. Daryl and his family currently reside in Murfreesboro Tennessee.

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Contact: Daryl Mackin daryl@asoldierschild.org

Website: asoldierschild.org.