

Uachtarán Award Recipient



TRAVIS MANION
FOUNDATION

*Accepting on behalf of the Travis Manion Foundation:
Col. Tom Manion, USMC (Retired), Chairman Emeritus
and Ms. Ryan Manion, President*

The **Travis Manion Foundation** is strengthening America's national character. In an increasingly divisive cultural climate, they unite and strengthen communities. Our nation needs role models that inspire and we should look no further than the civic assets already living in our communities. Veterans and families of the fallen are leading the charge, pushing us to be better versions of ourselves and improving our collective character.

On April 29, 2007, Travis Manion was killed by an enemy sniper while saving his wounded teammates. Today, Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) exists to carry on the legacy of character, service and leadership embodied by Travis and all those who have served and continue to serve our nation.

Travis' words before leaving for his final deployment to Iraq "If Not Me, Then Who..." are a constant reminder for all of us to live with character and put other people's interests before our own.

Col. Tom Manion started his career in the Marine Corps – retiring after 30 years as a Colonel. Besides his military career, Tom joined Johnson & Johnson in 1990 and through the years held various leadership roles before retiring in 2014 after 23 years. Tom is the father of 1stLt. Travis Manion USMC, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in April 2007.

After the loss of Travis, the family established Travis Manion Foundation (TMF) to support our military, the families of the fallen and to help create the next generation of leaders. As TMF's Chairman Emeritus, Tom has worked within the community and around the country to inspire people around him, to convey a sense of sacrifice and public service in all they do. Tom's late wife, founder and visionary of TMF, Janet Manion, passed away April 24, 2012, devoting every day to putting service above self.

Tom is also the co-author of the book, "Brothers Forever", the story about the friendship, service and sacrifice between Travis and his Naval Academy roommate LT (SEAL) Brendan Looney.

Ryan Manion has dedicated her life to supporting our nation's military, veterans, and families of fallen heroes. She is inspired by the character, leadership, and sacrifice of her brother 1st Lt. Travis Manion, USMC, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Al Anbar province of Iraq while drawing fire away from his wounded comrades on April 29th, 2007.

Serving as the President of Travis Manion Foundation since 2012, Ryan leads a national movement focused on assisting veterans and families of the fallen to take the next step in their personal journeys, and inspiring the next generation of leaders. As a highly regarded advocate for the military community, Ryan has been invited to address national audiences on numerous occasions.

Carrying on the legacy of her brother Travis, Ryan continues to lead a life of service to others. This was most notably recognized in 2015 when she was selected to receive the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service. In 2016 Ryan took an official appointment to serve on the Remember and

Explore Subcommittee and the Honor Subcommittee for the Advisory Committee at Arlington National Cemetery. As a leader in the Veteran Non-Profit sector, Ryan also serves on the Advisory Board for the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation. Some additional accolades include:

- 2016 HillVets 100 list
- 2015 Aspen Institute Scholar
- 2014 Joseph D. Helton, Jr. Award for Leadership
- 2013 Hillier (Ignite) Warrior for Warriors Award
- 2011 Commodore John Barry Distinguished Citizen Award

Ryan resides in Doylestown, PA with her husband and three children, Maggie Rose, Honor and Travis Brendan. Ryan continues to serve her local community by serving as a Township Supervisor since elected in 2011. While responsibilities of this position are focused on deciding issues of public safety, growth management, environment, etc., Ryan most appreciates the personal connection with those within the community she is able to directly serve.

Prior to Travis Manion Foundation, Ryan graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English from Cabrini College in 2004, and would then go on to launch two very successful businesses. However, a calling to public service remained in her mind, and she began a new venture with the Bucks County Department of Housing and Community Development. This allowed Ryan to feel like she could give back to others, as her position focused on administering federal, state, and county community support for housing programs. While this was rewarding, Ryan saw her mother building up Travis Manion Foundation, and knew that was where she belonged. She started with the Foundation as a board member, but as national recognition increased, her destiny was to get even more involved. Ryan left her government position to dedicate herself full-time to the Foundation. She would go on to eventually follow in her late mother's footsteps, where she remains to this day as the leader of the "If Not Me, Then Who..." movement of Travis Manion Foundation.