

# Why We Do What We Do



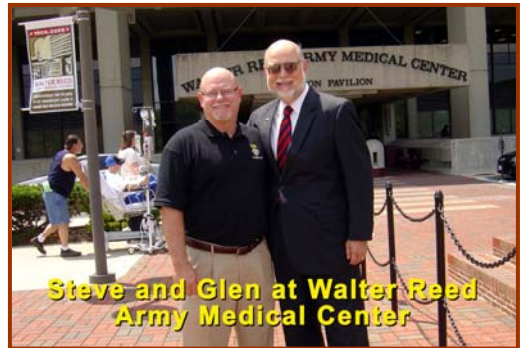
NoClu! Golf and the NoClu! Golf Classic tournament is about a lot of things. But first and foremost it's about supporting our troops and The Fisher House which provides a home away from home for the families of our wounded warriors while they recover from injuries sustained in combat. A portion of the proceeds from everything we do – shirt, cap and golf towel sales and the golf tournament -- goes to support the exceptional work of The Fisher House.

We recently had the honor (and that's really what it is) of visiting wounded soldiers and family members at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC and at one of the Fisher Houses located on the WRAMC grounds. To say it was inspiring doesn't begin to describe our experience. It was so much more.

Arranged by our new friends at Walter Reed, we were originally scheduled to visit with six Purple Heart awarded soldiers wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan during our allotted one hour. We stayed a bit longer and visited just four soldiers because we spent so much time with each of them. We'll soon go back and catch up with the soldiers we missed and many more.

Three of the four guys with whom we visited -- a Sergeant, Spec4, and PFC -- were wounded when IEDs or Improvised Exploding Devices were detonated as they passed in their combat vehicles. They suffered multiple arm, hand, leg and foot injuries. The fourth was a Master Sergeant who was singled out a sniper. Suffice it to say, that was the last round that sniper would fire!

There was the college graduate serving in the Army National Guard who was a track star in school. The Forward Observer frustrated because he wanted to do more on the battlefield. The Georgia Bulldogs fan who tried to pull his fellow comrades to safety only to realize that he couldn't use his feet. And the career soldier -- a Master Sergeant assigned as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major who, as the senior NCO, easily could have remained in the rear but instead chose to be on the front line with his men. They all were quite eager to share their stories and held nothing back offering detailed, focused accounts of their experiences. They enthusiastically answered every question we asked and were particularly excited to respond the last one -- *did they get the bad guys, the ones who caused all of this?* "Yes sir" was their unanimous response as they offered razor-sharp play-by-play of how.



Steve and Glen at Walter Reed Army Medical Center



Glen, Nathan Presnal (Head Pro at Lake Presidential), Maurice Borde (Manager at The Fisher House), and Steve

Brave, courageous, heroic – no adjective can adequately describe these warriors for their extraordinary service and sacrifice to our country. They are so much more as are their families. Visiting with them brings home the kind of sacrifice these individuals from teenagers to career soldiers in their 40's are making for each of us -- very humbling. No self pity or regret over their choice to serve. They are proud to wear the uniform and should be. We gave each of them a NoClu! Golf cap which they very much appreciated. Understandably, photos are not permitted inside the facilities except by the patients themselves. Our new buddy from Georgia immediately put on his new cap and had his brother take his photo with us. What an honor for us.

There are three Fisher Houses serving the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and six in the entire Washington, DC metro area -- two at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center and one at Andrews Air Force Base. They are staffed by a few dedicated paid employees and a cadre of equally dedicated volunteers. The families of wounded soldiers are there as are some of the patients themselves. Everyone stays for free. That's what The Fisher House does. That's what NoClu! Golf and the NoClu! Golf Classic are supporting. Thanks to the good folks at The Fisher House, we were able to visit one of the Fisher Houses at Walter Reed. Each house has multiple rooms with sleeping areas and handicapped accessible bathrooms as well as a living room, dining area, large kitchen where the families prepare group meals together, rec room, and patio with a grill, tables, and play facilities for the kids. They look like any other house down the street -- yet are so much more.

Visiting our wounded soldiers at the hospital. Sharing their life-changing battlefield experiences. Seeing the support system The Fisher House has created for their families. Everyone should be so fortunate to do what we did. And, we can't wait to go back.