



The Founding Folds

America's service men and women knowingly risk their lives by choosing to protect and serve their country. Our country. And while they face unknown horrors in the fields of battle, their families are confronted with an equally devastating reality at home when a loved one in uniform is killed or wounded.

Major Dan Rooney, an F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, became painfully aware of this crushing truth while returning home from his second tour of duty in Iraq. As his flight touched down, the pilot announced they carried the remains of Corporal Brock Bucklin on board and asked--out of respect for his heroism and family--all passengers to remain seated while his casket deboarded.

Major Rooney watched the flag-covered casket exit the plane. He watched Corporal Bucklin's twin brother, who had accompanied his fallen brother home from Iraq, walk somberly among the procession to meet his family. Among them was the deceased Corporal's young son, Jacob. Major Rooney ached as he thought of his own beloved wife and little girls at home. The experience of seeing the other side of war through the eyes of Jacob, was instantly life-altering for Rooney.

A few moments later, Rooney returned his awareness to the cabin of the plane. Sadly, more than half of the passengers on the flight had disregarded the pilot's request and had deboarded. Torn by this irreverent display in the light of the agony he saw in the eyes of loved ones left behind, Major Rooney decided he had to act. He needed to do something...first, to pay tribute to American soldiers and to their families; and secondly, to live as a reminder among civilians that it is our duty to appreciate and honor the ultimate sacrifices of our heroic service members who preserve the freedoms each of us so easily take for granted.

Knowing he couldn't change the fate of fallen soldier Corporate Bucklin, Major Rooney made a decision to spend his life changing the future of America's grieving spouses and children. In 2007, he formed the Folds of Honor Foundation...a 501C-3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities otherwise unavailable to this most deserving group of heroic American citizens.

Today, Folds of Honor Foundation exists to provide hope of a brighter future for those whose lives have been permanently altered as a result of their service to our great nation.

A Name of Honor

The United States flag is our nation's most beloved symbol of freedom. When it flies, we are reminded of our American freedom. When lowered and folded, it becomes a solemn tribute to our servicemen and women and the allegiance, valor and pride with which they have fought for generations. During the flag-folding ritual, each fold offers honor and remembrance for America's greatest individuals, values and beliefs.

It is in the sixth fold – made to honor the Pledge of Allegiance – that our hearts lie. For it is with allegiance and pride that we now give back to those service members who continue to protect America's blanket of freedom.



Corporal Brock Bucklin



Dan Rooney
Founder and President

Major Dan Rooney is the founder of the Folds of Honor Foundation and Patriot Golf Day, a former F-16 pilot in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, a golf course owner, a residential developer and a PGA Professional.

For his work with Folds of Honor Foundation, Rooney has received the White House's Presidential Volunteer Service Award, the Air National Guard's Distinguished Service Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and The PGA of America's Inaugural Patriot Award. He has also been recognized as one of People Magazine's 2008 Heroes of the Year and one of ABC World News Tonight's Persons of the Year for 2008. A Major in the Air National Guard and a decorated military aviator, Rooney served three combat tours in Iraq. He is a two-time recipient of the coveted "Top Gun" award and was honored with the "Spirit of Attack" award as a top graduate of F-16 training. He has received many decorations to include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Anti-terrorism Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, and Air Expeditionary Medal.

Rooney has continued his golf career as a majority owner of the historic Grand Haven (MI) Golf Club, ranked in the "Top 50 Public Courses in the Nation" by Golf Digest. Rooney is a majority owner of The Patriot, a Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed course currently under construction near Tulsa, OK. The Patriot will soon be the home to the Folds of Honor Foundation headquarters. A percentage of all profits, guest play, as well as member contributions from The Patriot directly benefit the Folds of Honor Foundation.

Dan and his wife, Jacqy, live in Broken Arrow, OK with their four daughters, Victoria, Tatum, Mia and Reese.