CSD MEMBER TONY DULANEY MEETS NEED THROUGH MISSION MEALS

A core principle of the Committee to Support and Defend (CSD) is that meaningful change begins at the local level. Across America, veterans continue serving long after their military careers end by identifying needs in their communities and taking action. CSD member Tony Dulaney is a shining example of that commitment.



In Brunswick, Georgia, Tony founded Mission Meals, a volunteer-driven effort through American Legion Post 9, that provides freshly prepared meals to veterans and veteran families facing difficult circumstances. Whether recovering from illness, experiencing financial hardship, or simply needing a helping hand, local veterans receive not only a meal, but also a reminder that their community cares.

What started as a conversation quickly became a mission. Launched in early 2026, Mission Meals has already served more than 150 meals to local veterans while operating on a remarkably modest budget. The program demonstrates that meaningful community impact does not require a massive organization — just dedicated people willing to serve others.

Mission Meals reflects the very best of the CSD mission—empowering veterans to remain engaged, lead by example, and strengthen their communities. It is proof that service does not end when the uniform comes off, it can simply take on a new form right where you live. ★

of veterans' cremains simultaneously, resulting in a lengthy, detailed service at the conclusion of a long funeral procession, involving the local ROTC, PGR, and other Veterans Service Organizations.

What other types of organization can readers of this magazine support?

Honor Flight is another honorable organization with a viable mission. Their mission is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. In furtherance of this common goal, we have the enormous privilege of showing our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with fellow veterans, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to the organization. While initially focused solely on America's World War II-era veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The Honor Flight TLC program also honors veterans of any era of service who are critically ill.

How much (or little) commitment does it take to make a difference?

As with all volunteer opportunities, you get out of it what you put into it. You can give as much or as little as you desire and as your other obligations permit. Depending upon my schedule with the family and responsibilities, I try to get out and attend at least one or two events every few weeks. If you assume a leadership role within these organizations, you can expect to be a little busier than usual at first, but after training, it will taper off. I have found that when an individual connects with an opportunity, they tend to get a little carried away and risk burning out quickly. Pace yourself; the opportunities will still be there, and there is enough to go around for everyone.



What would you tell a veteran reading this?

I believe that one should always be involved in something bigger than himself, it lends to perspective and minimizes undesirable egocentric behaviors. Being involved and giving your time also creates a feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day, while correspondingly "filling your heart."

A personal motto of mine in reference to my volunteer work, (and one I try to keep central in my thinking) is...

"There are many other things I could be doing today, but nothing is more important than what I am doing right now!"

Respectfully,
Mr. Jean "Dae Wi" Clark
Ride Captain, Patriot Guard Riders

Major Jean F. Clark, USAF (Ret.), serves as a Veteran Engagement Coordinator for the Committee to Support and Defend, leading conservative veterans across Texas. In that role, he organizes get-out-the-vote outreach, mobilizes veteran members in his state, and supports statewide Muster events alongside Lt. Col. Allen West. It's the same idea that runs through everything else he does: the oath didn't expire when the uniform came off. If you're a veteran who wants to keep serving, CSD is recruiting Veteran Engagement Coordinators in states across the country. Learn more at SupportAndDefend.org/vec or reach out to vec@supportanddefend.org. ★