

Operation Continued Freedom

In 2009, William Warren Childs deployed with his intrepid, bomb-sniffing dog named Ringo during **Operation Enduring Freedom**. He, along with his brother Marines, faced each day with courage. Few short months into the deployment, Warren's truck was hit by an IED.

From that moment, Warren's life changed forever.

He began to have seizures, memory issues, balance problems etc. However, because of the importance of his dog, Ringo, he decided to keep these symptoms to himself and continued to serve as an IED Handler. He and Ringo located over a dozen IEDs. Warren left the Marine Corps, to work for the company that trained the dogs and their handlers for 4 long years. He trained over 300 Marines to handle bomb dogs like Ringo. Warren's tenacity pushed him through while continually having mis-diagnosed seizures. In 2016 the VA's misdiagnosis culminated in a career ending seizure and began a three-year battle with the VA for the care he needed. After years of poor VA care in North Carolina our family made an emergency move to the Tampa Poly Trauma Unit in attempt to stabilize his conditions from his brain injury. In 2020 the doctors told us Warren's health would continue to deteriorate at an unknown pace and they had done all they could. They recommended, we move to the mountains and the family should enjoy what functional years Warren has left.

We put down roots in Montana, the state our older children dubbed "The best place (they) have ever lived." Warren enjoyed two years of freedom before his health began to deteriorate again. This past summer he was diagnosed with Essential Tremors, a condition similar to Parkinson's. From the beginning of our marriage till now, we have helped in veteran crisis and suicide intervention; but now, Warren is the Marine who needs help. We've realized accommodations need to be added to our home to adjust as his health and mobility deteriorate.

Warren needs a new Operation Enduring Freedom, freedom to live as functional as possible for a long time. He's carried the burdens of other for years.

Now, let's help him put his burden down to enjoy the land he fought for, by funding an accessible house here in **"The best place I have ever lived".**

