

In the  
**Ring**  
Spring 2017  
Review





# Get in the ring with Gold In Fight president

By Mike G.  
*GIF President*

Welcome to our first issue of our quarterly newsletter. My name is Mike Griffith and I am one of the six founding members of Gold in Fight. Each of us is part of this foundation for our own reasons, which will be shared throughout our newsletters and on our social media sites.

I wanted to start off our first newsletter with a thank you. Thank you for taking the time to read about our families and us. We have only been around since September and have already met some amazing and wonderful people.

See we don't want this to be like any other foundation. We want to be involved not just professionally helping people but personally. We want those who support us to know where their donations are going. Many times we give to organizations and wonder how much really goes to the people we are giving to.

When we started this foundation we wanted to make sure anyone who supported us would know that their donation went directly toward helping families in need. Myself and other members of the board are retired military and live on the values the military taught us -- Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. These are the values I was raised on in my 20-year military service.

Our values in Gold in Fight are HOPE -- Honest, Open, Passionate

and Empathetic.

We don't take any money for ourselves and we try to stay within a 1 percent range of using funds for the logistics of running the organization. This is important to us because we genuinely care about our families and our Gold Fighters.

To our Gold Fighters and our families we want you to know we are here for you as much as we can. It's not

always about the monetary donations. It's about the physical help and the friendship. We are in this with you 100 percent and while we all have full time jobs, we want to be there as much as we can when you truly need us.

If you are at the hospital for months at a time we want to help you by bringing

movies, food, or something you may have left at home that we can buy for you to get you through. We want to be that ear or that person who can find out information. We want to connect you with the people you need to speak with. We want to be your advocate.

So to all of our supporters and our families we again thank you for what you do for us. Whether that is giving us donations or including us in your family's journey as you beat this thing called childhood cancer. We only ask that you teach us how we can better serve our families in need.

With all our Love,

~Mike



*Mike G.*



## Gold in Fight Board



We are a 501(c)3 organization. Our goal is raise money to help relieve some of the hardships and stresses local families face due to their child's fight or their loss to pediatric cancer.

Gold in Fight is committed to being transparent and 100 percent of all proceeds go to helping local families.

We are all volunteers who have in one way or another been affected by this terrible thing known as Pediatric Cancer.

We do not pay ourselves. Our board members are retired military or business owners.

Please consider helping us in our fight for our local families.

Get in the Ring, and K.O. Childhood Cancer.

Follow us on social media:

@GoldinFight or on our web site at [goldinfight.org](http://goldinfight.org).

**Gold in Fight**

P.O. Box 1005

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## Meet Gold Fighter

**Emma Lynn D.**

*Acute Myeloid Leukemia*

Emma Lynn D. was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia when she was only 4 months old.

“Emma started to develop these very odd bumps on the top of her head,” said her mom Danielle. “They weren’t red or rashy looking.”

After going to her pediatrician and having labs drawn, Danielle was told to take her to the emergency room where the doctors performed more tests and a bone marrow aspiration. A few hours after the test, they were told what every parent fears, Emma has cancer.

“Our hearts sank,” said Danielle. “We couldn’t believe what we were hearing.”

Emma was admitted and started receiving her 6-month aggressive chemotherapy the next day.

“After her 10 days of chemo we had to then live in the hospital so they could watch her blood counts drop down and build back up,” Danielle said. “We stayed a total of 35 days. She had four spinal taps and two bone



marrow aspirations.”

Emma would endure three more rounds of chemo and have to receive a bone marrow transplant. Her dad, Phil, was a match and Emma received the transplant June 8, 2016.

“Emma has proven time and time again how incredibly strong she is,” said Danielle. “She is the biggest

fighter I’ve ever had the pleasure of knowing. We are so proud of how far she’s come.”

Today, Emma is cancer free and doing well. She even got to take a trip to Disney Land. Even though she is cancer free, she will have to endure yearly blood work and tests to ensure she stays in remission.

## Gold Fighters

**Angel**

*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*

**Austin**

*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*

**Brad**

*Medulloblastoma*

**Cole**

*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia*

**Emma D.**

*Acute Myeloid leukemia*

**Emma**

*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*

**Grant**

*Leukemia*

**Jack**

*Leukemia*

**Jessalyn**

*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*

**Jordan**

*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*

**Josiah**

*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*

**Justin**

*Brain Cancer*

**Mason**

*Neuroblastoma*

**Mya**

*Acute Myeloid leukemia*

**Mo**

*Cancer*

**Nae**

*Leukemia*

**Nick**

*Rhabdomyosarcoma*

**Sarah**

*Brain Cancer*

**Trey**

*Cancer*

**Tyler**

*Aveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma*



# Gold in Fight Halloween Bash



Ravens Roost 137 sponsored a Halloween costume fundraiser Oct. 28, 2016, at Sidelines Bar and Grill in Glen Burnie for Gold in Fight.

“We can’t thank them enough for doing this for us,” said Mike Griffith, Gold in Fight president.

Everyone from clowns to super heroes and villains to cartoon characters showed up to support Gold in Fight and a chance to win multiple gift baskets and two tickets to a Baltimore Ravens game.





# Gold

## Ribbon Cutting



Gold in Fight hosted its Gold Ribbon Cutting dinner Nov. 14, 2016, at Costas Inn, Baltimore, Maryland.

“What an amazing evening! We couldn’t have expected it to go any better than it did,” said Mike Griffith, Gold in Fight president. “We can’t say enough how much we appreciate everyone who came out in support of our cause. Your friendship and support means the world to us because we know this would not be possible without you.”

The night opened with three Gold Fighter families telling their stories to the audience. These stories help bring awareness to a disease called childhood cancer.

“Such an emotional and humbling evening,” said Griffith. “We could even say it was eye opening for some.”

Attendees were treated to a buffet from Costas Inn and chances to win gift baskets, an autographed Joe Flacco replica helmet and two tickets to a Baltimore Ravens game.





## Wings for one brave child: 175th Wing Pilot for a Day

Photo and Story by Air Force  
Tech. Sgt. Antoinette Gibson  
*Defense Information School*

For children fighting serious or chronic medical conditions, most days can be a struggle. These children and their families endure countless hospital stays, transplants, surgeries and relapses, only adding to the pressure the family is already under.

Five-year-old Jack Kirkbride and his family know this scenario all too well.

In August 2015, for no apparent reason, Jack experienced internal bleeding into his heel, elbow and finger. His parents took him to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore where doctors discovered his blood platelet count was 12 – a normal count is between 150 and 400. A bone marrow biopsy revealed Jack had leukemia caused by a very rare gene mutation called RUNX1, a gene only 36 children nationwide have been diagnosed with.

After nearly a year of multiple rounds of intensive chemotherapy then a bone marrow transplant from his father, Jack and his family learned recently that the leukemia had returned.

“Jack has kept his spirits high,” said Matthew Kirkbride, Jack’s dad. “The only thing that would get him through his treatments was the opening soundtrack of ‘Top Gun.’”

To recognize his fighting spirit through his ongoing fight with leukemia, Jack was honored as an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot for a day by the 104th Fighter Squadron here, receiving a hero’s welcome the moment he arrived at the installation.

Jack, his brother, Ryan, and their parents, Brianna and Matthew Kirkbride, were guests of the base



*Jack Kirkbride was honored as an A10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft Pilot for a Day at the Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Maryland, Sept. 17, 2016. The goal of this service wide program is to allow military children and civilians of all ages who suffer from serious or chronic medical conditions to visit an installation for the day.*

Sept. 17, as part of the Pilot for a Day program.

The program started in the 1990s at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and is designed to give terminally ill children the opportunity to live out their dreams for a day and to let their families enjoy time outside the challenges of everyday living.

The Gold in Fight Foundation and more than 100 U.S. service members, including Air Force Capt. Ryan Yingling, a 104th FS A-10 pilot and Jack’s host for the day, partnered to make Jack’s wish of being a pilot come true.

“For kids like Jack, Pilot for a Day allows us to give back,” said Yingling. “I think it gives them a goal to shoot for and really helps brighten their day.”

Jack and his family started their day with a welcome from Air Force Brig. Gen. Randolph J. Staudenraus, the 175th Operations Group commander.

“(The day) started with the commander giving my sons the coin,”

said Kirkbride. “He told them they were the boss and that it was their day, to just show their coin and they will get whatever they want. That set the tone for the whole day.”

The family received a flight brief, an aircrew flight equipment show-and-tell, a flight line aircraft launch demonstration, a simulator mission and a presentation from the 175th OG.

Jack was all smiles while sitting in the cockpit of an A-10 and said he enjoyed the simulator mission.

But what his favorite part?

“All of it,” he said.

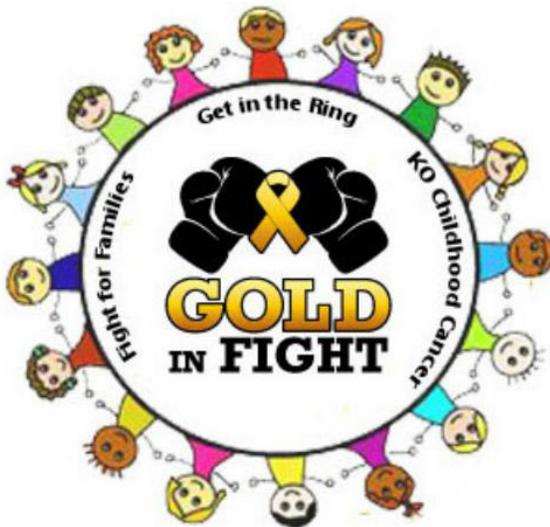
Kirkbride said it is hard to express in words their appreciation for the squadron members taking time out of their day to make this happen for Jack and his family.

“They truly went above and beyond – our Air Force family,” he said.

*Editors Note: Members of the Defense Information School partnered with the 175th Air National Guard Wing to set up this opportunity for Jack.*



# Gold in Fight Annual Golfing for Gold Golf Tournament



**Date: May 22, 2017**

**Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Where: Patuxent Greens Gold Club  
14415 Greenview Dr, Laurel, MD 20708**

**Cost: \$80 per person**

Includes: 18 holes of golf, cart fee, putting contest, closest to the pin contest, practice balls, hole in one prize, door prizes, drawings, and a country style buffet dinner.

Gold in Fight is hosting its annual Golfing for Gold golf tournament. All funds raised go to help relieve some of the hardships and stresses local families face due to their child's fight or their loss to pediatric cancer. Gold in Fight is committed to being transparent and 100% of all proceeds go to helping local families.

**Gold in Fight**  
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Follow us on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram @GoldinFight



*Get in the Ring*

*Fight for Families*

*K.O. Childhood Cancer*

# Gold in Fight Quarter Auction

Gold in Fight hosted a Quarter Auction Feb. 25 in Dundalk, Maryland, to more than 200 participants.

“To say it was a huge success would be an understatement,” said Beth Wheeler, Gold in Fight board member. “To all those who donated their time, donated baskets, and just overall continue to support what we do, we cannot express enough our deepest gratitude. We know that without your support we cannot be successful in helping our families. So again, thank you and God bless each and every one of you.”

Participants purchased paddels and bid quarters on items from 10 different venders.

“Amazing support last night! Thank you to everyone who came out,” said Bernadette Romanowski, Quarter Auctions “R” Us.



# Sponsors in the ring

*Thank you to this quarters sponsors*



*Ravens Roost # 137*



*North County*

