

# Operation-Engage-America

A Community Day of Support, Awareness and Education for Post -Traumatic Stress

## Des Moines Iowa State Capitol - Rotunda

1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319

Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-3:00pm open-house

Beginning remarks with keynote speakers 10:00am-10:30am

We are Lisa and Jeff Naslund of Galva, Iowa. We lost our son to Post Traumatic Stress. Our son, US Army SGT **Dillion Naslund**, completed tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dillion believed that, as a soldier, he needed to deal with the demons that often flashed in nightmares and cold sweat by himself. He was highly decorated, highly revered, and at a desperate crossroads when he took his life on December, 10, 2012 at the age of 25.



You may be familiar with **Daniel Somers**. He was a California Army National Guardsman who returned to civilian life from the Iraq war as so many of our warriors do, suffering from invisible wounds. For Daniel it was not only Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury, but also Gulf War Syndrome. His transition to civilian life ended June 2013 when he took his own life, unable to cope any longer with multi-system health issues. His parents Howard and Jean Somers have made it their mission to address the multiple barriers that kept Daniel from receiving the proper treatment he so desperately needed. In that process they hope to ensure that no other veteran or family suffers as they have.



We have partnered with the Somers hosting the event **Operation Engage America** in Des Moines, Iowa. The [open-house forum resource fair](#) is for all who struggle with PTS and their families, not just military members. Howard and Jean will be hosting the same event in San Diego, CA the same day, engaging America.

We have learned countless facts over the past years and months – among them, PTS is not military-specific. PTS affects our first responders, victims of domestic, child and sexual abuse, even some of those who've experienced natural disasters and automobile accidents. Additionally, there are thousands of people who sincerely want to help. Our focus is to educate veterans and community members suffering with PTS, regarding the resources in their own community. We want veterans' families and friends to know about resources that will help not only them, but that allow them to help their veteran.

**Operation Engage America** will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> in two cities: San Diego, CA and Des Moines, IA.

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