

# Travis Manion Foundation

The recommendation from the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is to recommend the Travis Manion Foundation as the recipient foundation for the 2017 Delaware Valley HR Person of the Year Awards. We believe this organization demonstrates commitment to our veterans and our communities and is worthy of our fundraising efforts, with 86 cents of every dollar raised going directly to the services that they provide. We believe that this organization is one that would provide some immediate brand recognition (making some of our fundraising efforts easier) but also an organization that could benefit from the increased spotlight that our HR community can provide.

The Travis Manion Foundation was founded by Travis' mother, and is headquartered out of Doylestown, PA and has branched out to include offices in Philadelphia, PA; Washington, DC; and San Diego, CA. The mission of the foundation is to empower veterans and the families of fallen heroes to develop character in future generations by:

- (1) Linking Veterans to Youth through "character does matter" presentations inspiring young adults (high school and college-age sports team youth) to live with character, develop their values-based leadership skills, and activate them to service their communities in honor of the fallen heroes.
- (2) Survivor Services which help survivors on the continued path of healing through service projects to continue the legacy of selfless service.

The organization is proud to say that for every dollar earned 86 cents goes to Veterans and/or family members of fallen heroes.

Another area of great interest to the HR Community is their Veteran Transition Workshops which assist the Veteran in knowing what to do after their military service to prepare for the next part of their life, which is employment in the private or public sector. These day-long workshops offer hands-on resources and tools that drive positive relationships, increase career engagement, provide one-on-one job coaching/readiness training and offer solutions to establish meaning both in and outside of work.

Background of the name behind the foundation: Who was Travis Manion?

Travis Joseph Lemma Manion was born Nov. 19, 1980 in Camp Lejeune, NC, to an active duty Marine family. After settling in Doylestown, PA, Travis went on to LaSalle College High School where his strong leadership qualities set him apart both athletically and academically. He was an all-league standout in wrestling, football and lacrosse, a member of five championship teams, and an All-American wrestler. Travis was awarded the Hal Selvey, Jr. Memorial Award for Unselfish Dedication and Leadership. This combination of leadership, athleticism, and academic achievement opened the door to his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. In 2004 Travis graduated from the United States Naval Academy and decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become a Marine. He finished at the top of his class at The Basic School, and was awarded a commission into the Marine Corps. He was then assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. On April 29, 2007, at the age of 27, 1st Lt. Travis Manion made the ultimate sacrifice in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. He, his fellow Marines, and Iraqi Army counterparts were ambushed while searching a suspected insurgent house. 1st Lt. Manion led the counterattack against the enemy forces. He was fatally wounded by an enemy sniper while aiding and drawing fire away from his wounded comrades. His selfless actions allowed every member of his patrol to survive. For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star with Valor.

For more information, visit <http://www.travismanion.org/>