

## A Family Loses Their Hero, But YOU Were There...

USMC SSgt and FDNY Firefighter Christopher Slutman was killed April 8, 2019 while on active duty in Afghanistan when his convoy was hit by an IED. Two other U.S. service members were also killed in the blast.

Christopher bravely wore two uniforms and committed his life to public service both as a New York City Firefighter and as a member of the United States Marine Corps. He was a 15-year veteran of the FDNY and worked for Ladder Companies 27 and 17 in the Bronx.

Christopher is survived by his wife, Shannon, and their three young daughters, McKenna, Kenley and Weslynn.

Through your kindness, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation paid off the mortgage on the family's home through the Foundation's Gold Star Family Home Program.

**Thank YOU for caring – and for your generosity again today!**

*In 2014, the city honored Christopher with the Fire Chief's Association Memorial Medal for bravery after he risked his own life to rescue an unconscious woman from a fire in a high-rise building in the Bronx. Five years later, Christopher gave his life as a Marine in Afghanistan.*

### **– Shannon Slutman –**

*Yes, when I read this letter I knew I had to share it with you. This is all thanks to you...*

Dear Frank and Tunnel to Towers Family,

*Frank*

In 2012, Chris ran the NYC Tunnel to Towers 5K with members of the FDNY and was so blown away by what the Foundation was doing, he brought me in 2013 to experience it too. Chris and I made our way through the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel with some of our military heroes who were catastrophically injured. We were both brought to tears by the losses experienced on 9/11 and proud to support a Foundation that would never forget.

Little did we know that in 2019 we would lose Chris in Afghanistan and our paths would cross again. My three daughters and I were facing tremendous heartache and almost immediately, you stepped up to make sure we knew that we were supported.

Being provided with a mortgage-free home sent a message to my girls that while life would never be the same again, they were not alone.

Today we celebrated moving into our home six years ago. Our home is the place where we all have so many memories of our time with Chris. For us, it's not

just about the Christmases and birthdays, it is about all the little moments like family dinners, walks to the bus stop, and cuddling watching a movie. Through this amazing gift, we continue to grow and share memories as a family.

Our family is forever grateful for everything you have done for us and how you continue to support families like ours. Nobody sacrifices more than the families of our military and first responders.

While we pray that other families never receive the knock on the door that will change their lives forever, we need to make sure they know that we will always be there for them.

Thank you – and all of the Foundation's wonderful supporters – for all you are doing to ensure our loved ones who sacrificed for this country are never forgotten.

With deepest gratitude,

*Shannon Slutman*



*Shannon and the girls miss Chris terribly, but generous friends like you have eased their worries and given them hope...*