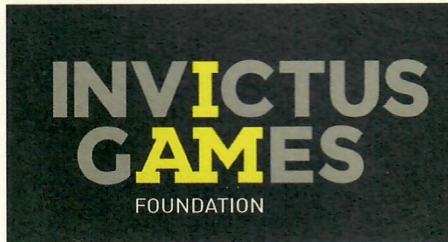




Service of Thanksgiving  
for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Invictus Games Foundation



Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
5 pm

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## Testimony

*given by*

Michelle Turner

Captain, Team UK, Invictus Games Sydney 2018

and

John Turner,

Maya Turner

We fought for our country on deployments far and wide,  
Devoted our years and served with pride.  
Camaraderie, loyalty, trust and sacrifice,  
We'd do anything for our country, whatever the price.

But life didn't go according to plan, and our military careers would end:  
We were made to face a future we could never comprehend.  
'Thank you for your service, but I'm afraid you have to leave'.  
No uniform, no rank, no flag on our sleeve.

Wounded, injured, sick, and now with no career:  
Consumed by insecurities, the pain and the fear.  
Our lives were upside down, how could it be,  
That the little girl I was meant to protect, was now looking after me.

I felt like I was losing my mum, she was in hospital all the time.  
When I was four, I saved her life by dialling 999.  
Our life was now different, she wouldn't leave the front door,  
Please try the Invictus Games, Mum, we can't go on like this anymore.

She was brave and said yes – we joined the Invictus family.  
I met other boys and girls going through the same as me,  
Together we help each other – above and beyond.  
We have a special connection, an Invictus kids' bond.

I was a husband in a lonely place, the nights I laid awake,  
Longing for her to smile, longing for her to wake.  
And then comes Invictus, a beacon of trust and hope,  
A place where families can find new ways to cope.

Families strengthened, by the Games they attend.  
Doesn't matter which country... you'll always have a friend.  
With each barrier broken, new goals are met,  
Determination grows and new challenges are set.

With Invictus support we are coming through the other side,  
It's been hard, it's been tough – one hell of a ride,  
Through sport, Michelle rose, stronger each day:  
This new found confidence is here to stay.

Our friends and family have seen us through each challenge we've faced,  
Our biggest supporters, no matter the race,  
Picking up the pieces, keeping us together,  
Hope we've made you proud, we promise to keep it up forever.

The power of sport has forever united us all,  
From the pool to the track, to wheelchair basketball,  
From the battlefield to the sports field, good times and bad,  
Comraderie and laughter, tears happy and sad.

It's our honour to forever be part of this incredible team,  
At the games and Beyond the Games, we now always dare to dream,  
We carry on regardless, try to be the best we can be,  
Unconquered role models for the world to see.

Thank you Invictus for giving me my mum back;  
Thank you Invictus for giving me my wife back;  
Thank you Invictus for giving me my life back.

## Reading

*read by*

Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex, KCVO,  
Patron, Invictus Games Foundation

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.