

SSG Bobby Henline (Ret)

Motivational Speaker, Actor, Songwriter, Poet, Model,
The Well Done Comedian



KEYNOTE: TEMPERED SPIRIT

- Before/after injury, outlook on life to include physical, mental, faith before and after injury
- IED explosion while serving in the Army in Iraq explained along with graphic photos of head, neck, and arm injuries, time to treatment, awakening from 2-week induced coma
- Long-term relationships with medical staff due to long recovery for burns
- Discussion of treatment for injuries, including interventions that worked well and those that did not
- Moral injury / survivor's guilt throughout healing process and beyond
- Living and thriving with a mental illness: post-traumatic stress, anxiety, panic attacks
- Suicide prevention and positive mental health
- The importance of support systems
- Quality of life: Overcoming adversity and the impact of helping others through the Bobby Henline Foundation, doing business as Forging Forward

WEBSITE LINKS

- Healing Bobby - Red Border Films | TIME: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Ag5yst6aBM>
- ABC15News: 'I thought my life was over:' Iraq attack survivor expands foundation for SC veterans: <https://wpde.com/news/local/i-thought-my-life-was-over-iraq-attack-survivor-expands-foundation-for-sc-veterans>
- MIGHTY 25: Combat-wounded Bobby Henline uses comedy to heal the military community: <https://www.wearethemighty.com/articles/combat-wounded-veteran-uses-comedy/>
- The Huckabee Show: Wounded Veteran Teaches The “Burn Victim Wave” | Comedian Bobby Henline: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOxDKt6kzy0>
- Forging Forward: <https://forgingforward.org/>

BIO

Henline is a retired Army Staff Sergeant, last serving with the 82nd Airborne Division. He spent 13 years in the Army, completing four tours. While on his fourth tour in Iraq, three weeks after his arrival, an IED exploded under his Humvee – April 7, 2007, is a day he will never forget.

The four soldiers with him did not survive. As Henline stumbled out of the wreck, a human torch, he was extinguished by the soldier he had replaced in the Humvee. With burns covering 40% of his body, fractured bones in his face, and his head burned to the skull, Henline was put into a medically induced coma for two weeks and flown back to the States.

During his initial six-month hospital stay, Bobby remained upbeat, positive, and relied on humor to get him through each day. Putting nurses in headlocks, trying to keep other wounded soldiers' spirits up by telling them jokes, and singing a ditty over and over garnered the attention of his occupational therapist. She challenged him to go to an open mic night and try his hand at comedy, making him promise with a pinky swear. He kept his promise, and that experience started a new chapter in his life. Comedy helps Bobby keep his Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anxiety, and Panic Attacks at bay, and allows him to share his story and healing with others using a positive, funny, inspirational approach.

Today, Henline continues his quest to make people laugh in a variety of venues as “The Well Done Comedian.” His professional comedy includes performances at Brad Garrett’s Comedy Club, Las Vegas; Laugh Factory, Chicago; and Hollywood Improv, Los Angeles, to name a few. As an actor, credits include the following movies and TV series: *MBF: Man’s Best Friend*, *Sophie and the Rising Sun*, and *Shameless*.

Henline’s story and lived experiences have been featured in film, print, and electronic media, including the documentaries *Comedy Warriors: Healing Through Humor*, *Healing Bobby*, and *Weight of Honor*, on CNN, PBS KET, NPR, Today.com, and Time.com; Time Magazine, People Magazine, The Huffington Post, Guideposts, and Readers Digest; as well as television, radio, and podcasts from around the world.

His other experience includes modeling, writing poetry, and songwriting. He is currently working with an award-winning Movie Director and team to make a film about his life.

Henline co-founded Bravo748 Military and Law Enforcement Speakers Bureau, an organization that invests in Veterans and First Responders who are speakers and entertainers with a mission of giving back to their communities through their experience, training, stories, comedy, music, and more. He began the Bobby Henline Foundation, dba Forging Forward, to create and host positive and meaningful experiences for veterans and first responders.

As a Motivational Speaker/Inspirational Comedian, Henline is comfortable speaking with one person or 1,000's. He collaborates with and performs for military and military-related organizations to inspire soldiers, veterans, first responders and their families, spreading his message of life, love, joy, and resilience; he visits middle and high schools across the country to inspire young people; and speaks at for profit and not-for-profit organizations sharing his story of resiliency, hope, and healing.

A SAMPLE OF KEYNOTES AT ORGANIZATIONAL EVENTS

- Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association
- Adanta Group Behavioral Health Services
- Can't Never Could Foundation
- National Institute of Oilseed Products
- Operation Mend
- American Airlines
- Veterans of Foreign War National Conference
- KY Child Abuse Prevention Conference
- Operation Immersion
- Wounded Warrior Weekend Canada
- 911 Tower Challenge Arizona
- USO Golf Tournament Georgia
- Ameriquail
- Fisher House Foundation
- Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC)
- KY School of Alcohol and Drugs Conference
- Gold Star Family Event Iowa
- Semper Fi Community Task Force of North Alabama
- 4th Annual Spirit of a Hero Gala
- Passion for Pigs Conference
- The Noles Group Casino Night Gala
- Lone Survivor Gala
- Feeding the Heroes Foundation
- Keltic Irons – Firemen of Athol, Massachusetts
- Texas Burn Conference
- Freedom Alliance
- Wounded Warrior Project
- US Probation District of Arizona
- Chris Kyle Foundation

A SAMPLE OF KEYNOTES AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Slippery Rock University
- Lindsey Wilson College Football Team
- Greensburg High School
- Adair County High School
- Pulaski County High School
- Taylor County High School
- Campbellsville High School
- Edythe J Hayes Middle School
- McCreary County High School
- Clinton County High School
- Russell County High School
- Casey County High School
- Green County High School
- Ellwood City School District

