OFFICIAL BRIEFING: FOUNDER'S STORY

THE WARRIOR'S BLUEPRINT: TURNING A DIAGNOSIS INTO A MISSION

"In 2018, I watched my father lose his battle with kidney disease. Six years later, I found myself facing the same fight. I realized then that I wasn't just fighting for my life—I was fighting to build a bridge for every warrior coming after me."

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

For twenty years, I lived my life by a simple code: grit, precision, and the pride of building things that last. As a heavy equipment operator, I moved mountains of earth to build the infrastructure of our communities. I loved the "boots on the ground" reality of hard work. But in October 2024, the ground shifted. What began as a routine eye exam ended with a diagnosis of End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). My kidneys hadn't just slowed down; they had stopped.

A NEW KIND OF BATTLE

I instantly went into "build mode." But I quickly found that the medical system can be a cold, overwhelming wall of authority. You are told how to survive, but rarely how to *live*. I realized that my 20 years in construction gave me the perfect blueprint for advocacy: you need a solid foundation, the right tools, and a crew that has your back.

I wasn't standing alone in this trench. My wife, Cortney, stepped in as my Co-Founder. While I navigated the dialysis chair and mastered home hemodialysis, she became the architect of our endurance, eventually leading our Battle Buddies Initiative to support the caregivers who are

often the unsung heroes of this journey.

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: THE GIFT OF LIFE

The journey through dialysis tested every ounce of resilience I had. But just as we pushed forward to build Nephro Warriors as a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, our mission reached a monumental milestone: on **September 1, 2026**, I received a successful **kidney transplant**. Moving from dialysis survivor to transplant recipient has deepened my commitment tenfold—proving that with grit, the right care team, and relentless determination, we don't just survive; we thrive and reclaim our future.

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

We founded Nephro Warriors to provide the "tactical intel" that clinics don't teach. From our grassroots community initiatives and advocacy through music to our championing of living kidney donation, we are building the infrastructure of hope. We aren't just looking to manage a disease; we are here to lead the charge against it.

OFFICIAL INTEL: PATRICK COLSON

- **Role:** Founder & Executive Director, Nephro Warriors
- **Expertise:** 20+ Years Operating Engineer (Local 12)
- **Advocacy Roles:** Patient Ambassador (AAKP) | Patient Advocate (NxStage/Fresenius)
- **Co-Founder:** Cortney Colson (VP, Director of Battle Buddies Program)

Ready to share the Warrior story? Patrick and Cortney Colson are available for interviews, panel discussions, and guest features to discuss grassroots advocacy, renal health navigation, and the full journey from diagnosis through dialysis and kidney transplantation.

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Media Kit Assets: nephrowarriors.org/media-and-command-center