

9 August 2013



Private Nathanael Gallagher.



Jessie and Jack.

Dear Supporter,

As Legacy Week approaches, I'm writing to thank you for your past support. Please would you consider making another kind donation to the families of the brave men and women who have died or been incapacitated during or after service for our country.

In cases like little Jack Gallagher's, Legacy starts assisting the children of our fallen heroes even before they're born. Our promise is to care for families like Jack's throughout their lives. That is why your ongoing generosity is so important.

Lance Corporal Jessie Feeney and her de-facto husband, Special Forces soldier Private Nathanael "Nate" Gallagher, were overjoyed when they learned last year that she was expecting their son. "Best of friends" since meeting when they were both serving in Townsville in 2007, they began excitedly planning their future as a family. Then Nate was called up for his second tour of Afghanistan.

The memory of their last goodbye is now very bittersweet for Jessie:

"It was a really emotional day for me. I was holding on to Nate and I didn't want him to walk away. Just before he did he gave my belly a kiss and he said, 'I'll see you when I get back, big boy.' We knew we were having a boy and we'd named him Jack already. Nate had come to all the scans with me. When we found out we were having a boy he was just over the moon."

Jessie will never forget the day last August that she got the news every army wife dreads. 30-weeks pregnant and about to rush to an obstetrician's appointment, she heard a knock at the door and three army officials asked if they could come in. They told her that there had been a helicopter crash during a mission in Afghanistan's Helmand Province and Nate had been one of the two young men killed. Nate was just 23 years old.

Numb with shock and heavily pregnant, the months that followed were a nightmarish whirlwind. Jessie struggled to attend to arrangements she needed to make for Nate and to get her affairs in order while preparing for baby Jack's birth without his Dad.

"I guess the grief didn't sink in till a few months when I was on my own again at home," she says. "You don't think you could ever feel so low."

Please turn over...

Yes! I would like to support Legacy and help keep the promise.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF:

\$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

OR

I would like to pledge an automatic monthly credit card gift of \$ _____ (You can change/cancel at any time.)

- I do not require a receipt as my credit card statement is sufficient.
- Please send me a receipt at the end of the financial year.

Please accept my:

- cheque/money order (payable to Sydney Legacy)
- credit card (details below)

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Amex Mastercard Visa

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Name on card: _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____

Please provide your:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Please send me information on remembering Legacy in my Will.
- I have already included Legacy in my Will.
- I do not wish to receive mail from Legacy.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS IF INCORRECT

Gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Thanks to donors like you, Mr Sample, Legacy was able to help Jessie and baby Jack right from the start.

At the 'ramp ceremony' when Nate was brought back home, Jessie was introduced to Phil, her Legacy volunteer helper, called a Legatee. His son is serving in Afghanistan so he and Jessie had a special connection. She felt he could understand a little of what she was going through.

Jessie came to rely on Phil's emotional support and listening ear through the grieving process. Legacy could also assist this young family to regain some financial stability during a very uncertain time. A week before Jack was due, Jessie had to see a financial advisor in Sydney and Phil drove her on the 180km round trip from Wollongong.

"He was a great help in filling out and understanding all the paperwork for things like the Department of Veterans' Affairs," she says. "Thanks to this now Jack and I get a fortnightly DVA payment. I was on maternity leave then six months with no pay so that income has been very much appreciated."

"The other day my Legatee told me to let Legacy know if I plan to do further study and they would help me out. Jack will also get Legacy's ongoing assistance for his schooling and education. It's definitely a sense of security knowing they'll be there to help for the rest of our life and for Jack's life."

With a long history of nurturing the development of children of deceased veterans, Legacy puts a priority on education. Jack will have access to special grants and scholarships and mentorship programs that assist with education and life choices. He can also enjoy outward bound courses, adventure activities and holiday camps. These programs can introduce children and families to others with a shared experience, providing support, community and opportunities for friendship.

For Jessie the future is not what she had dreamed but she is slowly getting back on her feet. She finds comfort and joy in Jack who is now a beautiful 9-month-old. In September she'll start back with the army at Holsworthy Barracks and says she is thankful Legacy is by her side for whatever comes:

"I guess no-one really knows what it feels like to lose someone so close to you unless it's happened to you. Nothing will ever bring Nate back or my happiness back. But Legacy does take off a big burden. That's what Nate would have wanted for me and Jack. He would have only wanted the best for us. And with the support I'm getting from Legacy, I feel that is what is happening."

Your generosity will enable Legacy to make a huge and positive impact on those who are left to face life without a partner or a parent – now and into the future.

Please make a difference by donating to Legacy today for Legacy Week (September 1 – 7). Every gift helps people like Jessie, Jack and the more than 100,000 other widows, children and dependants with a disability who rely on Legacy. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Dunston
President, Sydney Legacy

I am hoping you will make a donation this Legacy Week. Thank you for your generosity.

**You can make a donation online:
Visit www.iSupportLegacySydney.com.au**

P.S. You can make a huge difference to the lives of Legacy families. Please dig deep this Legacy Week and help 'Keep the Promise'. Thank you.

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Jessie with baby Jack.



Legacy Week 1- 7 September

**For the families of veterans,
the battle goes on.**

