



# CHILDREN OF FALLEN PATRIOTS FOUNDATION

## COLLEGE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

# STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

## STUDENT INFORMATION

**NAME:** Katie Palmer

**COLLEGE:** University of South Carolina

**MAJOR:** Public Health

**GRADUATION DATE:** 2020

## MILITARY PARENT INFORMATION

**NAME:** James "Chili" Palmer

**BRANCH OF SERVICE:** U.S. Marine Corps

**RANK:** Lieutenant Colonel

**CAUSE OF DEATH:** Killed in Action

## KATIE'S STORY

Katie Palmer is the daughter of U.S. Marine Corps Lt Col James "Chili" Palmer. "My dad was a "Marine's Marine" through and through. He was fiercely loyal and strong willed, but also so goofy and loving. He was the best father imaginable for my little family and his legacy lives on through all who knew him. We all miss him so much."

LtCol Palmer lost his life in 2011 while serving overseas during Operation Enduring Freedom. "My dad's military service will forever be a part of who I am. The dedication and loyalty that he served with for over 20 years in the Marine Corps is something that I carry with me and try to implement everyday within my own life. I am proud of my dad's service, and even prouder to be his living legacy."

After graduation, Katie will start a position as a Scholarship Administrator for Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation. "Helping others is a trait that has long been ingrained into who I am, so I have always known I wanted to go into nonprofit work. I am looking forward to working for an organization that has impacted my life in such a positive way and cannot wait to do the same for others through this position!"

Katie's life has been impacted by the Fallen Patriots by helping her not worry about the financial burdens of college. She says, "I have been able to dedicate my time to my schoolwork and opportunities on campus. I am proud to say that I am graduating Magna Cum Laude, with a cumulative GPA of 3.77." Katie will be able to graduate college debt free. She cannot wait to start giving back through her new position with Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation.

There are approximately 25,000 children who have lost an active duty parent in the military over the last 35 years. The vision of Children of the Fallen Patriots Foundation is to ensure that every such child receives all necessary college funding.

