



Van of Valor Carries the Weight of Memory and Loss on a Journey Through Georgia

Dr. Kevin P. Wallace
Van of Valor

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The journey for Lauren and Dr. Kevin Wallace is not measured in miles, but in moments of memory and profound loss. This week, their "Van of Valor" project—a mission to honor fallen U.S. service

members—wound its way through the heart of coastal Georgia, tracing a path from personal nostalgia to national tragedy.

The trip began in Charleston, S.C., opting for the scenic serenity of Southern backroads over the impersonal rush of the interstate. Their destination was the Georgia coast, a place layered with meaning before their solemn work even began.

Their first stop was Tybee Island, a location etched in Lauren's childhood memories. "This is a place of peace for me," Lauren shared, looking out toward the Atlantic. "My parents brought me here to play in the waves and build sandcastles. It felt important to ground ourselves in that goodness before stepping into the heartbreak we knew was coming."

They camped the Van of Valor at River's End Campground, using the island's gentle rhythm as a brief respite. But the purpose of their mission soon called them back to Savannah.

There, they sat down with the parents of Army Sgt. Breonna Moffett, one of the three Georgia soldiers killed in a January drone strike on a U.S. base near the Jordan-Syria border. The interview was, in Lauren's words, "emotionally draining."

"You sit in the presence of a family's shattered world," she said. "There are no words adequate to capture their pain, only the duty to listen and to ensure their daughter's story is told with the honor it deserves."

In a moment of poignant connection, the team later had lunch at the same Savannah restaurant where Sgt. Moffett and her mother shared a meal before she deployed—a last, precious memory now forever sacred.

With heavy hearts, the journey pressed on, turning southwest to the city of Waycross. There, they sought to honor the life of another of the three soldiers lost in the attack: Sgt. Kennedy Sanders.

For a full day, they immersed themselves in Sgt. Sanders' world, visiting the places of her youth and speaking with the friends who loved her. They crafted a tribute video, an emotional visual testament to a life of promise cut devastatingly short.

"We walked where she walked," said Dr. Wallace, who he himself is a Bronze Star w/ Valor and Purple Heart recipient, and no stranger to war. "We heard the stories of her spirit, her laughter, her dedication. It's a devastating loss for that community and for this nation. Our mission is to make sure people see the person behind the headline."

The Van of Valor, now carrying the weight of two families' immense grief and the legacy of two American heroes, has since departed Georgia, heading south into Florida. There, more interviews await, each one a sacred trust, each mile a continued promise to remember.

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