

## Scott Gatto – Founder / CEO



Scott Gatto was born in Mount Clemens, Michigan, and grew up in Warren, Michigan, alongside his three siblings and parents. During his childhood, he was actively involved in playing various sports, helping him discover his natural leadership abilities and his commitment to putting his team first. After completing high school, Scott enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and he reported to 3rd Marine Division on September 11th, just two hours before the tragic attacks occurred. His time in the Marines became demanding as he dedicated nearly a decade of his life to serving the country as a skilled and highly trained infantry Marine.

Throughout his military career, Scott Gatto was frequently recognized for his exceptional ability to develop Marines into leaders and enhance their skills. Over half of his career was spent in foreign countries, where he worked to forge and maintain strong relationships with foreign leaders. Scott and his unit conducted hundreds of combat missions, demonstrating bravery and commitment.

During the intense 2nd Battle of Fallujah in Iraq, Scott was one of only nine Marines from his 41-member platoon to survive. Tragically, five of these survivors were critically wounded in the first two days of the battle and were transported to Bethesda, Maryland, for treatment. Scott's unwavering dedication to his country, his leadership, and his outstanding performance both on and off the battlefield earned him high praise and numerous awards for valor.

His comrades continue to hold him in high regard, often describing him as a person of strong character, unyielding loyalty, and total dedication. Many of them affectionately refer to him as "the go-to guy," a testament to his reliability and profound impact on those he served alongside.

In 2017, recognizing the pressing needs of his fellow veterans, Scott Gatto founded a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, "Reunite the Fight." This organization is dedicated to supporting veterans who struggle with PTSD, survivors' guilt, and depression. Scott's pivotal realization, or "aha moment," came when he saw the staggering loss among his fellow veterans: 93 lives were lost in the 2nd Battle of Fallujah in 2004, but by 2017, 86 more had died by suicide.

Motivated by these harrowing statistics, Scott acted by organizing a board, delivering speeches at hundreds of events, and hosting fundraisers to raise awareness and gather funds for the cause. Under his leadership, Reunite the Fight has made significant strides, helping over 1,500 veterans access essential support, including medical treatments, PTSD therapy workshops, employment opportunities, and veterans' benefits. A critical aspect of their mission is reconnecting veterans with those they served alongside, strengthening the bonds formed in service.

Notably, Reunite the Fight operates with remarkable financial efficiency: no one within the organization receives a salary, ensuring that 98.3 cents of every dollar they raise directly impacts veterans' outcomes. This extraordinary dedication has not only helped save lives but also honors the memory of those who have been lost.

Scott has built an impressive career beyond his military service, demonstrating leadership and innovation in various fields. Initially, he played a vital role in the Department of Defense, where he led teams responsible for developing and providing essential gear to troops on the battlefield. This experience honed his leadership skills and bolstered his ability to manage critical projects.

In 2013, Scott transitioned to the pharmaceutical industry, applying his college education, and medical background to become a top-performing sales representative and leader. His deep understanding of the medical field facilitated this smooth transition, allowing him to excel in advocating for patients and driving success within his teams. Over his 12-year career in the pharmaceutical sector, Scott has not only challenged leaders and colleagues to devise novel strategies to counteract the social stigmas associated with the industry but has also received multiple top performer awards for his outstanding contributions. Scott continues to thrive in the pharmaceutical field today, leveraging his expertise and determination to make a meaningful impact on patients' lives.

Scott's journey is one of resilience and inspiration, marked by both personal and professional achievements. As a motivational speaker, he shares his story with audiences far and wide, although many might not initially realize the depth of adversity he has faced. Scott has battled PTSD, a challenge he meets with courage and determination, especially given the tragic loss of his third daughter at birth. In 2013, he was also diagnosed with Facio Scapulohumeral Dystrophy (FSHD), a debilitating condition, yet he continues to persevere and advocate for others.

His commitment extends beyond his personal story, as Scott aims to transform the way PTSD is addressed within the veteran community. He strives to honor the sacrifices of veterans by

advocating for mental health resources and support systems that enable them to fully enjoy the freedoms they have fought for.

Above all, Scott embraces his role as a devoted father to his three children—Alaina, Scottie, and Kai who all reside in Clay, MI and attend Algonac schools. Together, they share a passion for adventure and the outdoors, engaging in activities such as diving, surfing, fishing, hunting, and exploring wildlife. The family also values cultural enrichment, making it a priority to learn about new cultures during their annual vacations.

Scott's life is a testament to strength, faith and perseverance, as he balances personal challenges with his mission to make a positive impact on the lives of others, all while being a loving and dedicated father.





