

**October 12, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RACQUETBALL ORGANIZATIONS DECLARE SUPPORT FOR LIVE LIKE JOHN**

In a nationwide racquetball initiative supporting military and veteran causes as well as high school and junior racquetball programs; the IRT, LPRT, MACS, NMRA, and USAR announced today their collective support of Live Like John (LLJ) as the non-profit organization plans a number of racquetball events and activities beginning in 2021.

Along with the SPC John A. Pelham Memorial Tournament of Champions returning in 2021, the Live Like John Legacy tournament series will be launched nationwide in September. The series will partner with local events across the country who wish to support LLJ plus will connect with and support local military charities. As the LLJ Series grows in ensuing years, the ultimate goal is to have an event in every state which will not only support military charities but also provide a competitive racquetball opportunity for active duty military and veterans.

Give Like John will also be associated with each of the LLJ Series events to support High School and Junior racquetball programs with equipment to start new programs and/or to provide equipment to those who cannot afford their own.

Hank Marcus was instrumental in developing the support of all the collective racquetball bodies and said, "This historic initiative where all the major organizations are working together towards a common goal is a great honor for Live Like John in addition to a positive sign for the future of our sport."

John Pelham's Father, Wendall added "during John's funeral, I made the statement, John's impact, will be bigger in death than he was in life. With the continued support of each of these amazing organizations, that is coming to fruition."

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Website: [livelikejohn.us](http://livelikejohn.us)

Facebook: Live Like John

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### **About John Alexander Pelham**

On February 7, 2014 John's last Facebook post was, "I can't wait to play racquetball again." On February 12<sup>th</sup>, just five days later US Army Specialist John Alexander Pelham was killed from small arms fire in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Kapisa Province of Afghanistan while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group (A). He was 22 years old. John's love of life was also evident in his love of racquetball. He would play as often as his schedule would allow.

A few months after his death, his father was approached by a group of friends about holding a Memorial Tournament in John's honor and of course the answer was yes. This launched the Live Like John shootout held at the prestigious Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland Oregon. During the 5 years since John's death, the event has grown into a Tier 1 professional event bringing the top racquetball players from all over the world to play in the SPC. John A. Pelham Memorial Tournament of Champions.

### **About Live Like John (LLJ)**

The Live Like John non-profit is dedicated to furthering SPC John A. Pelham's Legacy of Service, by supporting our Nation's Military Gold Star Families, Veterans and furthering the organizations that made an impact in the life of Spc. John A. Pelham. We started Live Like John as a labor of love, ensuring the legacy of our Son, U.S. Army Specialist John A. Pelham and all those who are serving, have served, and those whose families have lost a loved one.

Live Like John is a Federally registered Internal Revenue Service 501c(3) non profit; EIN 47-3247370, Oregon Corporate Registry #1096974-9. Website: [www.livelikeyjohn.us](http://www.livelikeyjohn.us)

### **About International Racquetball Tour (IRT)**

Founded in 1990, the men's professional International Racquetball Tour (IRT) features 300 players competing in over 20 Top-Tier and more than 50 Satellite tournaments in Latin America, the United States, and Canada. Pro/Am tournaments draw professional, amateur, and college entrants during the September through May competitive season. Pro/Am tournaments can draw over 700 professional, collegiate, and amateur players from juniors to master competitors. Website: [www.irttour.com](http://www.irttour.com)

### **About Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour (LPRT)**

The Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour (LPRT) is the event driven, governing body of a growing membership of the highest-level professional women players in the world. The LPRT is comprised of elite athletes representing more than a dozen countries including the United States, Mexico, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Ireland, and Japan. Website: [www.lprt.com](http://www.lprt.com)

### **About Military Adaptive Court Sports (MACS)**

Military Adaptive Court Sports (formerly Military Racquetball Federation) is a veteran based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting adaptive Pickleball, Racquetball and Badminton programs for disabled armed service members and veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), amputation, Spinal-Cord Injuries (SCI), and substance/alcohol abuse due to the negative effects of combat. Website: [www.militaryadaptivecourtsports.org](http://www.militaryadaptivecourtsports.org)

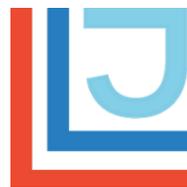
### **About National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)**

For 50 years, since 1971, the National Masters Racquetball Association has offered sportsmanship, camaraderie and challenge for masters athletes – 40 to 90 years young – who enjoy a dynamic quality of life through competitive racquetball. Fielded in an expanded playoff format, the nation's highest-caliber veteran players are tested among their peers in three annual championships. The NMRA is also a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to the future of the sport through charitable giving, scholarship awards, community support, and quality competition for all men and women players over the age of 40.

Website: [www.nationalmastersracquetball.com](http://www.nationalmastersracquetball.com)

### **About USA Racquetball (USAR)**

USA Racquetball, founded in 1969, is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport. The organization annually conducts six national championships and sanctions hundreds of tournaments for players of all ages and skill levels. It also organizes the Adult and Junior National Racquetball Teams, oversees the Official Rules of Racquetball, administers national player rankings, manages a college scholarship program, and supports the introduction of new players to the sport. Website: [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)





U.S. Army Specialist John A. Pelham Reenlists



Top Ranked IRT Professional Kane Waselenchuk at the 2019 Tournament of Champions