



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 22, 2021

Published in the January 17, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 01

---

## **The Goodness of America**

### **Football Philanthropy for Waukesha Christmas Tragedy**

Arizona Cardinals defensive end J.J. Watt and Baltimore Ravens guard Kevin Zeitler, both Waukesha natives, offered to cover the funeral costs for the six victims killed in the Christmas Parade domestic terror attack in Wisconsin that shattered the lives of so many people in that community. Zeitler also offered to cover the medical expenses of those injured during the attack.

On November 21, Darrell Brooks, a left-wing, anti-white madman, intentionally drove an SUV through a Christmas parade, killing six people and injuring 62 others.

The victims were identified as 81-year-old Wilhelm Hospel, 79-year-old Virginia Sorenson, 71-year-old LeAnna Owen, 52-year-old Tamara Durand, 52-year-old Jane Kulich, and eight-year-old Jackson Sparks.

Watt and his family have deep ties to the Waukesha community. He and his brothers were born in Waukesha, Fox News reported, and graduated from the local high school, Pewaukee High School, where J.J. played football. Watt would later go on to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Watt took to Twitter just hours after the deadly tragedy occurred.

“Just now seeing what happened at the holiday parade back home in Waukesha tonight,” he tweeted. “Horrorific images. Truly hoping everyone is going to be ok and those involved are now safe. Thankful to everyone who rushed to action and helped the wounded.”

And in the days following the horrific attack, Watt announced through local media that he would be covering the costs of the funerals for all of the deceased victims.

Zeitler also took to Twitter to share his emotional response to the horrific events that transpired, noting his own family’s connection to the annual parade.

“Just landed back in Baltimore and now seeing the horrifying videos and images from my hometown Waukesha WI. I attended that parade every year growing up and can’t fathom this happening. My prayers are with those affected and the responders,” he tweeted.

Zeitler later tweeted that he and his wife would help cover the medical and funeral expenses connected to the parade attack.

“In light of the recent tragic events at the Waukesha Christmas Parade on November 21st, 2021, we want our community to know that we see them, love them, and we’re here for them,” the Zeitzlers wrote on Twitter. “Our primary goal is to have the focus remain on the families who were directly impacted by last weekend’s tragedy and to help make sure any financial burdens are taken care of. We feel that the best way to help the affected families is to assist with funeral and medical expenses by donating to the fund which was set up by United Way and the Waukesha County Community Foundation. Together, we are #WaukeshaStrong.”

### **Lighting the Way at Christmastime**

When Dale Mark of Beaverdale, Iowa, suffered a stroke and a heart attack while battling COVID at the start of the Christmas season, he thought he would have to give up his family’s tradition of putting up a



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 22, 2021

Published in the January 17, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 01

---

dazzling Christmas light display at his home and collecting donations for the local food bank — that is, until a group of volunteers stepped up to take on the project for him.

KCCI reported that Dale and his wife, Julie, raised \$7,500 and collected 1,500 pounds of food at Christmas 2020, and had hoped to bring in another impressive bounty this Christmas, but Dale was struck with a bout of health issues. It began with COVID, followed by two strokes and then a heart attack.

“I laid in the hospital for 28 days not knowing if I was going to survive, and I knew, I knew, that I need to carry on if I at all could,” Dale told KCCI. “If at all possible, if I have a last breath there is something that God has for me to do to help others.”

Even after he was released from the hospital, however, Dale knew he was too weak to put up his light display.

When local contractor Bob Coffey caught wind of Dale’s situation through a mutual friend, he decided to enlist the help of four of his employees and put up the light display at no cost. Coffey and his team arrived at Dale’s residence on November 15, Breitbart reported.

Coffey told CNN that it was clear Dale wished he could help. Instead, however, he directed the men through the four-hour effort, and the end result brought him to tears.

“He thanked me, he cried a little bit, I got teary,” Coffey told CNN. “You could tell how much he appreciated it, and that’s what makes it worth it.”

The light display was opened for drive-by viewing for selected dates beginning December 4. Although this column is going to press prior to the completion of the public viewing on Christmas Eve, the Marks expect to once again do well, accepting food and monetary donations from large crowds and fulfilling their Christmas mission.

## **Bicycles for Christmas**

Alex DeJesus of St. Petersburg, Florida, continued his tradition of donating bicycles for children this Christmas.

DeJesus launched his mission three years ago after being inspired by a police officer he encountered while waiting to check out at Walmart. The officer was purchasing a bike for a child, and told DeJesus that he had promised it to a student he was trying to encourage to stay in school.

“He told me a story that he loaned a bike to a kid who couldn’t make it to school,” DeJesus told WFLA. “So he promised her that if she continued to go to school, he would buy her a bike eventually.”

DeJesus was so inspired by that story that he decided to purchase another bike for the St. Petersburg Police Department to provide to a child in need. He shared his tale on social media, which motivated his friends to do the same. DeJesus was so pleased with the participation that he decided to make it an annual campaign.

Well before the arrival of Christmas, WFLA reported, DeJesus had collected and purchased more than 100 bikes. He had also raised money to purchase helmets and locks to go with the bikes.



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on December 22, 2021

Published in the January 17, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 01

## Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

### What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.