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The Goodness of America

Sports Legends Support Israeli Boy Who Lost Entire Family

Decent people around the world are still reeling from the shocking terror attack that took place in southern Israel on October 7. As we contemplate the horror, we cannot help but think of the children who have been orphaned by the attacks. Twelve-year-old Ariel Zohar lost not only his parents that day, but also his two older sisters and his grandmother. Ariel is a big sports fan, so a group of NFL and NBA players teamed up to record a special birthday message for his 13th birthday in an effort to offer him just a little bit of hope in this otherwise dark time.

The video featured NFL legends Dez Bryant and DeSean Jackson and NBA legends and current players Tyler Herro, Isaiah Thomas, Terance Mann, Marcus Morris, Michael Porter, Jr., and Glen “Big Baby” Davis, and was posted on X and Instagram on November 3.

“I just want to wish you a happy 13th birthday,” Tyler Herro said in the video. “My prayers are with you. I hope you keep your head high and enjoy this amazing day you turn 13. You have our support here in Miami, and God bless you, and I hope you have an amazing day.”

DeSean Jackson added, “Stay strong during these tough times,” and told Ariel, “I’m saluting you. You got it, brother. We are all with you. Much love, bro.”

“What’s up Ariel. This is Dez Bryant,” the former Cowboys player said. “Just want to stop by and wish you a happy birthday. Stay blessed. Stay strong. You got some real ones behind you.”

“The words ... I can’t describe what you’ve been going through,” said Glen Davis. “I just know that I’m praying for you for healing, praying for you for a great, bright future, man, and we love you, man.... I love you, Ariel. Happy birthday, my man. Keep your head up, bro. We’re supporting you, man.”

“Stay strong, do your thing, do what you gotta do,” Terance Mann told Ariel. “You got our support in LA from the Clippers.”

“I want to wish you a Happy 13th Birthday and happy Bar Mitzvah from your guy ‘TT,’” said Isaiah Thomas. “Praying for you, stay strong, stay on your slow grind, all love, praying for you, stay strong, happy 13th birthday.”

Marcus Morris added, “I wanted to wish you a happy birthday. I’m praying for you and your family.”

“I heard you turned 13 and so I just wanted to wish you a happy birthday. I’m praying for you and everybody out there,” said Michael Porter, Jr.

The video has more than four million views on X and Instagram.

Once Lost, Now Found

When 10-year-old Plymouth, Massachusetts, elementary-school student Connor Datri lost his heart-shaped locket engraved with his late mother’s initials and fingerprint and containing her ashes, he feared he would never see it again. But thanks to Lou Ascii, Connor has been reunited with this special memento.

Connor’s mother tragically died in a car accident three years ago, his grandmother, Melissa Moriarty, told Boston 25 News. The locket was one of the few items he had of hers, and he was devastated when



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he realized it was missing while walking across a soccer field next to West Elementary School.

“He wears it all the time, and he only takes it off when he showers,” Moriarty told Boston 25. “He feels the closeness with his mom, that she’s always going to be there.... This is like the only thing that he really has of his mom.”

When Boston 25 News aired a segment on Connor’s lost locket, Asci was moved to act. While many people had already attempted to help Connor locate the necklace, none of them but Asci had a metal detector. Asci joined several other locals who had been searching the field for the necklace, and after three days of searching, found it on October 26.

“I was just about ready to finish that quadrant of the field, and that’s when I got the hit,” he told the news outlet. “When I got the hit, it was a big, high-tone signal, and I immediately thought it was a quarter. And then, I saw the heart shape.”

When Asci returned the necklace to Connor, the young boy and his grandmother became emotional and were full of gratitude. It was impossible for Asci to not feel emotional as well, knowing what Connor had been through and that losing the necklace re-created an incredible pain that no young child should have to experience.

Heroic Citizens Help Officer

Two Florida men became overnight heroes after they aided Florida law enforcement in the arrest of a home-invasion and carjacking suspect on October 24, WKMG 6 reported.

The suspect, Michael Prouty, allegedly forced his way into a woman’s house, robbed her, and stole her car before leading police on a chase. After crashing into several vehicles, he fled the scene on foot. A passerby, identified as Tom Episcopo, saw what happened and grabbed hold of Prouty, but he managed to escape. Police said Episcopo’s intervention helped slow Prouty down as police were in hot pursuit.

Prouty then approached a female driver at a nearby Starbucks and attempted to steal her car. But as soon as he was able to get into the vehicle, a second heroic citizen intervened and pulled him out, prompting Prouty to run off again. He was followed closely by the man, who managed to hold him behind Starbucks for a few moments until police were able to secure him with handcuffs, the Ocala Police explained in their statement.

The second citizen has not been identified, but Ocala Police Chief Mike Balken expressed his gratitude to both men for their heroics and encouraged them to consider joining the police force.

“We are proud of these two citizens for their heroic action, for helping our officers make the arrest, and for keeping our community safe,” Chief Balken said. “We would like to let these heroic citizens know that we are currently hiring police officers, and we invite them to apply to our agency!”



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