

**Christopher D. (Chris) Meek is co-founder, Chairman, and CEO of SoldierStrong, a 501c3 charitable organization.**

SoldierStrong helps America's service men, women, and veterans take their next steps forward by identifying and filling gaps in the traditional systems supporting veterans and members of our military.

The original name of the organization (SoldierSocks) stems from Meek's first project. Stunned by the fact that our "boots on the ground" in Afghanistan were short of good socks, he sought out donations from communities and businesses, while also creating a nonprofit organization to pursue effective fundraising for the delivery of donated supplies to the troops. Over 75,000 pounds of supplies were delivered to 73 units fighting overseas.

As the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq began to wind down, SoldierStrong broadened its mission to help veterans take next steps on the home front as well.

That includes scholarships to help veterans transition into rewarding civilian careers. SoldierStrong has made monetary commitments to the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and the Batten School at Old Dominion University to fund scholarships for veterans to continue their education after their military service.

Meek and SoldierStrong have focused on helping veterans who have been paralyzed take literal next steps forward with the SoldierSuit program. Comprised of a variety of devices, most of which originated through DARPA research, paralyzed recipients of the SoldierSuit are able to stand and walk again with the help of a robotic exo-skeletal device provided by SoldierStrong.

In addition to Chris's work as a philanthropist, he is also a Senior Director and Global Relationship Manager at S&P Global, Inc. responsible for some of the firm's largest clients.

Prior to joining S&P Global, Chris was the US Head of Asset Manager ETF Sales at State Street Global Advisors. Chris also spent 16 years at Goldman Sachs as a volatility trader, risk manager, and the last 12 as a Trader on the Institutional ETF Desk where he managed the domestic sector and commodity ETF products. He started his career at MetLife Insurance and has been working in the investment industry since 1992. Chris was listed in CONNECTICUT Magazine's "40 Under 40" as one of the state's up and coming leaders. In October 2011, Chris was awarded the 2011 March of Dimes Franklin Delano Roosevelt Outstanding Corporate Citizen Award.

Chris has a BA in Economics and Political Science from Syracuse University and an MBA in Financial Management from Pace University in New York City. He also holds the FINRA

Series 7, 63 and 55 licenses, as well as the FINRA Supervisory Series 9, 10 and 24 licenses. He is an Adjunct Professor in non-profit management at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and is also currently enrolled in Syracuse's EMPA program.

During Philanthropy Week 2014, Meek was awarded the Orange Circle Award by Syracuse University's Chancellor Syverud. Introduced in 2009, the Orange Circle Award recognizes altruistic members of the Syracuse University community who have done extraordinary things in service of other.