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## **\$1,700 Raised for Soldiers in under six minutes by local REALTORS®**

(Shiloh, Ill.) – As REALTORS® from across Southwestern Illinois joined together to celebrate their success in the industry, they took the time to listen to a soldier's story and give back in a big way – by raising \$1,700 in just 6 minutes.

Over 200 members of the REALTOR® Association of Southwestern Illinois gathered at the Falls Conference Center on March 7, 2018, to honor and celebrate each other's accomplishments in the prior year. Production Awards were given out as well as Special Awards, such as REALTOR® and Rookie of the Year. However, what many viewed as the highlight of the day was the presentation given by Dustin Row, Founder of Songs4Soldiers.

Father, musician, and veteran of the Iraq War, Dustin founded Songs4Soldiers with the intent on helping four combat veterans a year. According to their website, Songs4Soldiers has helped over 280 veterans and their families since 2013 as well as 6 veteran organizations. From rent and mortgage payments to vehicle expenses, Songs4Soldiers is dedicated to making sure 100 percent of donations go directly to the needs of our veterans.

Dustin was introduced by none other than his brother, Sam, who is a member of the REALTOR® Association of Southwestern Illinois. "Seeing Sam's success," along with his other brother's accomplishments, tells Dustin, "has inspired me to take chances even when everybody says not to."

As the six-minute Songs4Soldiers video played, eyes teared up and donation buckets were filled.

"We are proud to be able to support such amazing organizations," remarks Renee Wittenauer, Chairperson of the Community Involvement Committee of the REALTOR® Association of Southwestern Illinois and recipient of the 2018 Community Involvement Award. "At an event where we celebrate our success and our industry, it remains paramount to our organization that we give back to and support our community."

Last year, the REALTOR® Association of Southwestern Illinois raised \$1,400 at their annual Awards Luncheon for the REALTORS® Relief Foundation.

To learn more about Songs4Soldiers, visit [songs4soldiersstl.org](http://songs4soldiersstl.org).

*The REALTOR® Association of Southwestern Illinois (RASI) is the voice for real estate in Southwestern Illinois. Our mission is to empower members to succeed today and into the future. For more information on RASI and real estate careers, please visit [www.618realtor.com](http://www.618realtor.com) or contact the office at (618) 277-1980 or [Information@myRASI.com](mailto:Information@myRASI.com).*

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