

JASPEN BOOTHE, 36

Haymarket, Va.

In August 2005 Jaspen Boothe was in her 13th year as an Army Reservist in New Orleans, training for deployment to Iraq. To prepare, the divorced single mom sent her then 9-year-old son to live with an aunt, gave up her apartment and put her belongings into storage. Then Hurricane Katrina struck. “The whole storage unit ended up underwater,” she says. “I lost everything.” A month later she was diagnosed with adenoidal cancer, which prevented her deployment and, though treated successfully, led to her honorable discharge. Overnight she found herself unemployed and without a place to live. She went to the Veterans Administration office but says they offered little help. “They told me to get on food stamps,” says Boothe. “It was the most degrading experience of my life. One day you’re in uniform standing tall and proud. The next, your son sees you sleeping on your auntie’s couch.”

After four months of camping out with her aunt, Boothe landed a civilian job working on benefits for the Army National Guard in Washington, D.C. There she was struck by how often she encountered those struggling just as she had: female former Reservists and Guardswomen who had fallen on hard times and had nowhere to live after their service was over. According to a 2012 Department of Veterans Affairs report, the number of homeless female



Boothe at her training base in South Carolina in 2011.



“I let them know they’re not alone,” says Boothe (right, with Dixon, now living with her son in Final Salute housing).

People | HEROES AMONG US

FINDING HOMES FOR MOMS WHO SERVE

Former Army Guard Capt. Jaspen Boothe was homeless. Now she helps other military women in need

HOME FOR NOW
"I'm eternally grateful,"
says Dixon (with son
Evan, 20 months) of
Boothe's help.



veterans more than doubled from 2006 to 2010, to approximately 3,328. (A VA spokeswoman declined to comment on Boothe and referred a reporter to va.gov/homeless.)

Boothe was determined to help. In 2010 she took a \$15,000 advance on her credit card to help create Final Salute (finalsaluteinc.org), which so far has provided temporary shelter, counseling, child care and assistance with finding permanent housing to almost 300 former military women and their families. "Jaspen gives these women a hand up instead of a handout," says Baylee Crone, head of the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans.

Women can stay at one of the three Final Salute homes for up to two years and must pitch in with cooking and cleaning; those who land jobs pay 20 percent of their income toward food and utilities. Anne-Marie Dixon, 36, was two weeks shy of finishing her Air Force Reserves training in late 2012 when she became pregnant. Because of various Air Force policies,

she ultimately found herself ineligible for housing and had to take a civilian job as an airline ground-operations manager. But it paid only \$10 an hour, and she was soon sleeping in her car. Boothe provided a room to the single mom and her two sons, and Dixon is now saving money to find her own place. "I would not be where I am today without God's grace or Jaspen Boothe," she says.

'These women need help. Just like I needed help'
—JASPEN BOOTHE

And Boothe, now married with two sons, Branden, 19, and Jammel, 4, has shown she is willing to go above and beyond. When Afghanistan vet and Army Reservist Chiquita Peña, 31, and her family faced eviction two years ago after her husband, Karl, also a Reservist, lost his civilian job, Boothe helped find the family housing. Now both deployed in Qatar, the couple asked Boothe if she would care for their daughter while they are serving overseas. She didn't hesitate to say yes. "I'm beyond appreciative for my sister Jaspen," Peña says. "She is my hero." —CATHY FREE & JEFF TRUESDELL

Legal Notice

You May Be a Member of a Class Action Settlement Which Could Affect Your Rights.

What Is This Notice? A Settlement Agreement has been reached in a class action lawsuit which alleges that AT&T Mobility LLC ("AT&T Mobility") used an automatic telephone dialing system and/or an artificial prerecorded voice message to make calls to cellular telephones without the prior express consent of the owners of those numbers. The lawsuit, *Joel Hageman v. AT&T Mobility LLC*, is pending in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. AT&T Mobility strongly denies the allegations, but has agreed to settle to avoid the burden and cost of further litigation. This is only a summary. You should use the contact information below to get detailed information in order to make a decision about your legal rights.

Who Is Included? You may be a Settlement Class Member if you received one or more auto dialed or prerecorded voice calls on your cellular telephone made by AT&T Mobility, or by a collection agency acting on behalf of AT&T Mobility, if those calls were made without your consent and if you did not receive cellular telephone service from AT&T Mobility at the time of the call.

What Does The Settlement Provide? If AT&T Mobility's records show that (1) your cellular telephone number was listed as a contact number on two or more AT&T Mobility accounts that are not related by name, address, or other personal identifying information and (2) AT&T Mobility or a collection agency acting on AT&T Mobility's behalf made collection call(s) using an automated dialing system or a prerecorded voice to your cellular telephone number, then you may be eligible to receive a payment for each call made without your consent. A settlement fund of \$45,000,000 has been established to pay valid claims, attorney's fees, costs, expenses and settlement administration costs. If you meet the conditions described above, you may be eligible to receive a share of that settlement fund. The final cash payment amount per call will depend on the total number of valid and timely claims filed by all Class Members.

Who Represents Me? The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Class. Those attorneys are the law firms of Bishop and Heenan, 1631 Zimmerman Trail, Billings, Montana 59102, Keogh Law, Ltd., 55 W. Monroe Street, Suite 3390, Chicago, Illinois 60603 and Bingham and Lea, P.C., 319 Maverick Street, San Antonio, Texas 78212. You will not be charged for their work. Class Counsel will request an award for attorney's fees and expenses from the Court of up to one-third of the settlement fund. You may hire your own attorney, but only at your own expense.

What Are My Legal Rights? To receive payment, you must submit a Claim Form. Claim Forms must be submitted electronically or postmarked by January 19, 2015. You may obtain a Claim Form by visiting www.ATTCASETTLEMENT.com.

If you choose to exclude yourself from the Settlement and keep your right to sue or arbitrate against AT&T Mobility, you must send a written request for exclusion postmarked by January 19, 2015, to the Settlement Administrator, PO Box 43310, Providence, RI 02940-3310.

If you do not exclude yourself, you have or your lawyer has the right to appear before the Court and object to the Settlement or to Class Counsel's request for an award of one-third of the settlement fund in attorney's fees and costs (the "Attorney's Fees Request"). Any objections to the Settlement or the Attorney's Fees Request, along with any supporting material, must be postmarked by January 19, 2015 and filed with the Court by that date. Untimely objections and material not filed will not be considered.

If you do not exclude yourself, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement and give up your rights to sue AT&T Mobility or to pursue arbitration against AT&T Mobility for any claim relating to the call(s).

When Will The Court Consider The Proposed Settlement? The Court will determine whether to approve the Settlement at a Fairness Hearing scheduled to take place on February 9, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the James F. Battin Federal Courthouse, Bighorn Courtroom, 2601 2nd Avenue North, Billings, Montana 59101. The Court will consider any timely filed objections at that time. If you file a timely objection, you may appear at the hearing to explain your objection, but you are not required to attend. If the hearing is relocated or rescheduled, the new location or date will be posted on the Settlement Website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE SETTLEMENT WEBSITE
www.ATTCASETTLEMENT.com

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