



UNPRESCRIBED

a film by Steve Ellmore



ALLEGIANCE
FILMS LLC

USA 1:11:11

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Unprescribed | SYNOPSIS

Amid the opioid crisis and 22 suicides a day, military veterans across the country are shunning prescription medicines in favor of cannabis.

In his first feature-length documentary, producer, director, and USAF veteran Steve Ellmore chronicles the lives of fellow warfighters, spouses, and family members coping with military trauma and the loss of loved ones to suicide brought on by the over-prescription of pharmaceuticals.

Unprescribed | BIOS

STEVE ELLMORE, Director, Producer



Steve Ellmore is an American filmmaker, photojournalist, and veterans' activist. His experience behind the lens dates back to the 1980s with his first 35mm camera. From there he migrated to TV and audio production before joining the Air Force in 1992. After retiring from service in 2012, he returned to the he returned to his roots as a freelance photographer.

His venture into activism and filmmaking began that same year with the *American Taxpayer Relief Act* and production on, *Allegiance to the Same*, a film project he conceived to challenge the government's plan to cut veteran benefits.

In early 2017 Ellmore began work on his next project, a documentary about a veteran startup and their efforts to launch a marijuana grow in the Midwest. Though the idea was eventually scrapped, he was sold on the therapeutic aspects of cannabis for treating PTSD and other trauma.

Initially a skeptic, he soon realized the potential for cannabis to save lives. "We've been lied to! If I didn't know cannabis could treat anxiety, PTSD, and TBI, how many other's are suffering needlessly when an all-natural remedy exists?" Using all the tools at his disposal, Ellmore grabbed his camera once more and began work on *Unprescribed* that same year, establishing [Allegiance Films LLC](#) in the process.

Ellmore is a Southern California native who now resides in Prince George's County Maryland. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland University College and his master's from Johns Hopkins University, both in communications.

BOONE CUTLER, USA (ret.) Warfighter Activist

Boone Cutler is an author, columnist, and Warfighter Rights leader that has become the first nationally recognized radio talk show personality who is also a combat veteran from the Iraq war.

America currently loses at least 22 Warfighters to suicide every single day. This is a number that Boone has made his mission to combat by his creation of "The Spartan Pledge." An oath for fellow Warfighters to promise not to take their own lives and instead vow to find a new mission to help one another.



In 2012, Boone was diagnosed with Early-Onset Parkinson's Disease secondary to a blast-injury he received while in Iraq and is currently campaigning for more awareness of the issue of degenerative brain disease in the Warfighter Community.

SUZANNE SISLEY, MD, Cannabis Researcher



Suzanne Sisley is an Arizona-based physician practicing Internal Medicine and Psychiatry. She is the Principle Investigator for the only FDA approved cannabis trial for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The purpose of the study being conducted at Scottsdale Research Institute, is to assess the safety and efficacy of cannabis and cannabis compounds for treating veterans with PTSD.

Dr. Sisley founded and serves as CEO of a non-profit corporation called Ensuring Tomorrow Productions. This organization delivers health education through music, theater and dance. Sue has been a proud member of the Stage Actors Union since 2001, Actors Equity performing in professional theatre around the Valley.

Fabian Henry, CAF (ret.), Activist / Humanitarian

Fabian Henry first dove into the cannabis industry in 2013 with the launch of his business, Marijuana for Trauma (MFT) — a veteran owned and operated company that helps people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder

(PTSD). At the age of 20, Henry enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces as a Combat Engineer. During this time he was deployed on six tours and after 12 years of service he was discharged due to PTSD. Not long after Henry discovered the positive impact cannabis had as treatment for his own battle with PTSD, Marijuana for Trauma was created.



Henry sold the business in 2016 and he and his partner donated proceeds to start the Global Alliance Foundation Fund (GAFF), an initiative created to help bridge the gap in care between a soldier's discharge from the Armed Forces and the process of entering back into everyday civilian life. Currently, GAFF is valued at \$12 million and growing.

Henry recognizes that cannabis is not a cure for PTSD, but he considers it an important part of the treatment process and from that idea, Veterans for Healing was formed. The after-care program aiming to help veterans is the reason why Henry has purchased some of Cape Breton's most desired properties. These properties include 130 acres in Pipers Glen, 300 acres and 2,000 feet of frontage in Chimney Corner and a 1.5-acre lot in Inverness.

JANINE LUTZ, Veteran Activist



Janine Lutz, (aka: MoAB, Mother of America's Battalion, named by members of the warfighter community) is a business owner, marine mom, cancer survivor, bereaved mother & veteran advocate. She is the founder of the LCpl Janos V Lutz Live To Tell Foundation, Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in honor of her son Janos V "Johnny" Lutz. Johnny was lost in January of 2013 from Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and over-medication received from the local VA. Turning tragedy into triumph since her loss, Janine has been an instrumental part of reducing the suicide rate among combat veterans and changing the culture of veteran affairs in South Florida.

Janine has not only brought national awareness to the military suicide epidemic but has also provided a multifaceted solution to the problem. She has implemented various programs & initiatives through the Live To Tell Foundation to improve the continuum of care for veterans in South Florida while creating positive long term systemic change.



JOSHUA FREY, USMC (ret.) Marijuana Activist

Josh is a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. He was one of the very last casualties of the battle of Fallujah in 2004, the largest urban combat operation since the Vietnam War. Josh was part of a six-week battle that involved vicious street-by-street and house-by-house fighting against an entrenched enemy that left nearly 100 American soldiers and Marines dead, and another 560 wounded.

Josh was awarded his first Purple Heart in November 2004 when he was knocked unconscious and suffered other wounds from a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) blast. Less than a month later he took a more serious wound when he got into a gun fight with an Iraqi insurgent while clearing a house in Fallujah. He needed six blood transfusions to keep him alive and eventually underwent 22 operations.

Josh is an ambassador from the veteran community and an outspoken advocate for medical cannabis research.

Unprescribed | DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Unprescribed is a self-funded, passion project conceived after learning the benefits of medical marijuana. As a military veteran and suicide survivor, I took it upon myself to share the stories of veterans who are all too hesitant to speak to others outside of the veteran community about their PTSD and war-related traumas. *Unprescribed* is a film by veterans for veterans.

Unprescribed | FAQ

Q| How common is suicide in the veteran community?

A| A 2012 VA report stated 22 veterans succumbed to suicide every day and has become a rallying cry for advocates against suicided. While the number is still debated, a more recent study puts the number at 20, which is still a considerably high statistic.

Q| What is the 'combat cocktail' or 'zombie dope'?

A| The 'combat cocktail,' is the combination of drugs prescribed to combat veterans for a variety of conditions including PTSD, anxiety, depression and pain, which often leaves them in a fog, or zombie-like state.

Q| How did the idea for Unprescribed come about?

A| The original idea was to document a veteran marijuana grow in the Midwest. Throughout the research process producer Steve Ellmore learned about the benefits of medical marijuana. After the initial project was scraped, Ellmore became convinced of the science behind cannabis and developed Unprescribed in an effort to educate the general public of the misinformation that has been perpetuated over the past century.

Q| What is the total runtime for Unprescribed?

A| Total run time is 1:11:11. Think about it: WWI formally ended at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect (Armistice Day). At the urging of major veteran organizations, the holiday was renamed in 1954 to Veterans Day, which we celebrate each year on November 11th (WWI + Nov 11 = 1:11:11).

Unprescribed | CREDITS

PRODUCED BY
STEVE ELLMORE

DIRECTED BY
STEVE ELLMORE

EDITED BY
STEVE ELLMORE and
AMBER SORENSON

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
AMBER SORENSON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
STEVE ELLMORE

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

LUIIE OTERO
MIKI CUTLER
WADE CUTLER

1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA

JAMES McCANN
LUIIE OTERO
MIKI CUTLER
WADE CUTLER

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

JAMES McCANN

**FEATURING
(IN ORDER OF APEARANCE)**

BOONE CUTLER
JOSHUA "FREYDOG" FREY
CHANCE EPPS
SARAH STARR (FREY)
SCHERIL MURRAY POWELL
HOPE WISEMAN
JANEL RALPH
DERRICK PERKINS
JEREMY SHEPHERD
JUDY GHANEM
SUZANNE SISLEY, MD
JAMI HAMPTON
TIFFANY ELLMORE
FABIAN HENRY
JOHN BURKAVAGE
DAVE MENCARELLI
JOEY GILBERT
ROSS "PEE WEE" HENSEN
JANINE LUTZ
BRIAN LUPO
MATT BROUSSARD

COMBAT FOOTAGE PROVIDED BY

KEVIN SITES
JOSHUA FREY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MUSIC PROVIDED BY
KILLER TRACKS and
UNIVERSAL PRODUCTION MUSIC

ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY

'22 PLUS ONE'
Written by SABO
Performed by SABO, Ft. Boone Cutler
Produced by NSA Entertainment

'SNOWFALL'
'A NOTE IS MY GIFT'
'FLORET'
Written & Performed by Kai Engel

'IN YOUR ARMS'
Written & Performed by Nicolai Heidlas
via HookSounds

SPECIAL THANKS TO

THE AMERICAN LEGION
JOE PLENZLER
CHANIN NUNTAVONG

MAPS.ORG
BRAD BURGE

NORML
JUSTIN STREKAL

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