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## **MARINE COPES WITH TRAGEDY AND SURVIVOR'S GUILT IN "MAKE PEACE OR DIE: HONOR THE FALLEN," PREMIERING NOVEMBER 11 ON PBS'S INDEPENDENT LENS**

*Debating on Veterans Day, the Documentary Follows a Marine's Journey to Memorialize Fallen Comrades*

(San Francisco, CA) September 16, 2024—In a powerful tribute to sacrifice and healing, the gripping and personal documentary "Make Peace or Die: Honor the Fallen" will mark Veterans Day with a poignant exploration of duty, loss, and remembrance, on PBS's INDEPENDENT LENS.

Directed by Manny Marquez, the documentary follows the emotional journey of his brother, Marine Anthony Marquez, who, was deployed to Sangin, Afghanistan, in 2011. His unit, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, suffered the tragic loss of 17 Marines. Haunted by their deaths, Anthony returned home with a mission to honor his fallen comrades. Over the span of three years, he carved and hand-delivered battlefield crosses to the Gold Star families of each Marine.

"Make Peace or Die: Honor the Fallen" debuts on PBS's INDEPENDENT LENS on Veterans Day, November 11, 2024, at 10 p.m. (check local listings). The film will be available to stream on the [PBS app](#).

The film captures Anthony's continued dedication as he embarks on a 10-year anniversary road trip with his brother Manny. Their journey revisits the families, offering a means to memorialize their loved ones and share their stories with the world. The film not only illuminates the profound impact on the families that have lost a loved one overseas, but also showcases Anthony's personal progress toward healing as he reconnects with fellow Marines and reflects on their shared experiences.

"'Make Peace or Die: Honor the Fallen' is a compelling testament to the enduring bonds of brotherhood and the ongoing quest for peace amidst the scars of war. This Veterans Day, audiences will witness a deeply moving story of honor, resilience, and the search for closure," said Lois Vossen, executive producer.

Director Manny Marquez states: "It was so important for us as the filmmakers to make a film that could appeal to all Americans. After 20 years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, our nation is divided in ways I couldn't have imagined. My goal was to show that there are service members and Gold Star families out there that are still hurting from the loss of their loved one. We as a nation need to learn to walk with our neighbor again. This film is not anti-war, nor pro-war. This film is pro-empathy and pro-healing."

Visit the ["Make Peace or Die: Honor the Fallen"](#) page on INDEPENDENT LENS to learn more about the film.

#### CREDITS

<b>Director</b>	Manny Marquez
<b>Producer</b>	Ben Leiser Anthony Marquez Manny Marquez David Naglieri Steve Farr
<b>Executive Producer</b>	Lois Vossen Rob Kaczmark Ben Leiser Barry Poltermann

#### ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

##### **Manny Marquez, Director**

Manny Marquez grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he currently lives with his wife and six children. He is of Mexican and Native American (Choctaw) descent. His first feature "Psychopath" was released in 2014, followed by the award-winning short "Operation Allie." Manny is the director of "Make Peace or Die: Honor the Fallen," his second feature film.

##### **Anthony Marquez, Producer**

Anthony Marquez served in the Marine Corps from 2007 to 2012. He deployed to Sangin, Afghanistan, in 2011. His unit, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, suffered great losses, with 17 men killed in action. "Make Peace or Die: Honor the Fallen" documents his journey of remembrance for those 17 fallen Marines and their Gold Star families.

**Ben Leiser, Producer**

Ben Leiser has worked in film for almost three decades. Raised outside of Chicago, Ben was from the singular Jewish family in the area. He met Manny in 2003, and they soon became filmmaking partners. It was during the filming of "Psychopath" that Ben was acquainted with Anthony and they've been close friends ever since.

**ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS**

INDEPENDENT LENS is an Emmy® Award-winning PBS documentary series. With founding executive producer Lois Vossen, the series has been honored with 10 Academy Award nominations and features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts. Stream anytime on the PBS app. For more visit [pbs.org/independentlens](https://pbs.org/independentlens)

**ABOUT ITVS**

Independent Television Services (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years the San Francisco non-profit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy® Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit [itvs.org](https://itvs.org)

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