

## Interview: 'Three Amigos' Join Gen. Martin Dempsey To Give ThanksUSA #McCain #Lieberman

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What do you get when you put Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey and Senators John McCain, Joe Lieberman and Lindsey Graham in a room full of thankful military families?

A jolly good time.

Gen. Dempsey and the Three Amigos, as the senators are called (a nickname first coined by General David Petraeus), had a ball Wednesday night poking fun at one another at ThanksUSA's fundraising gala for military personnel and their families.

The four have fought tirelessly for decades in the name of the troops, and have won multiple awards for their efforts. Lieberman and McCain were honored again last night.

"It's very unpredictable," Lieberman said, laughing, of the atmosphere when they are together. "Sometimes serious, sometimes hilarious, sometimes raucous."

He and McCain currently have two competing cybersecurity bills in the Senate, so their friendship doesn't guarantee that they share the same views.

"I always say, and I like to say it when John is around, that there are occasions when we disagree," Lieberman told Glittarazzi. "Whenever we disagree, he's wrong."

# AWESOME!

“I don’t really use the word awesome, my kids do, but this is awesome,” Gen. Martin Dempsey told Glittarazzi.

Due to the nature of the featured speakers, however, people expected more than just touching stories. And the senators made sure to deliver. McCain and the devoutly Jewish Lieberman have spent years traveling the world together, but they don’t always agree on the best way to do it. “Whenever we travel with him we have to eat lousy food, we can’t ride in the elevator sometimes. ...” McCain lamented. “I’m considering converting because I have to do all these things without any of the benefits.”

“When he gets to the gates of Heaven and he finds a rabbi there,” Lieberman responded in his speech, “he’s going to be able to say, ‘I followed all the rules!’”

But they all agree on the importance of ThanksUSA, an organization started by sisters Rachel and Kelsi Okun in 2005 when they were 10 and 8 years old, respectively. ThanksUSA has raised millions of dollars to provide educational scholarships for military families. Its scholarship application was downloaded 10,000 times this year alone.

“I don’t really use the word awesome, my kids do, but this is awesome,” Gen. Dempsey told Glittarazzi. He later joined the Okun girls in leading a rendition of “God Bless America” with the crowd.

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Army Gen. Martin Dempsey (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), Deanie Dempsey, and Army Gen. Lloyd Austin (Vice Chief of Staff)



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