



2025
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECIPIENT

MIKE GABLER

Kingwood High School, Class of 1989



Mike Gabler is a proud 1989 graduate of Kingwood High School. Having attended Foster Elementary, Kingwood Middle School and Kingwood High School, Gabler believes that his time in Humble ISD helped shape his future. At Kingwood High School, Mike participated in football, track and student council. After high school, he completed his undergraduate degree at Stephen F. Austin University and went on to complete his post-grad at Bond University in Australia. Mike Gabler is a heart valve specialist and has pioneered several groundbreaking medical therapies in the Texas Medical Center.

In 2022, Mike competed on Season 43 of "Survivor". At age 43, he was the oldest contestant of the season and the second oldest competitor in the history of the show. Through it all, he remained positive with his can-do attitude and won the competition. He chose to donate his entire \$1,000,000 prize to Veterans struggling with post traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and to combat the alarming rate of Veteran suicide. The winnings were donated to 25 hand-picked, personally researched and vetted Veterans charities. Mike comes from a family of veterans, including his father, Robert Gabler, who was a Green Beret, an elite unit within the US Army Special Forces.

After giving numerous interviews and speeches on the topic of winning Survivor and Veterans charities, he was asked by Team Never Quit to become one of their motivational speakers and continue his work of inspiring and encouraging others. Gabler exemplifies the Team Never Quit ethos. His passion for winning is only matched by his determination and willingness to 'pay it forward.' He travels the United States delivering impactful presentations in many industries including corporate, military and sporting events.

Gabler and his wife, Joanna, have been married for over 25 years and are the proud parents of two amazing daughters.