Two friends and former Green Berets, Tim Reynolds and Kevin Rasband have always been there for each other.

“So Kevin and I know each other from way back in the 80s, early 80s. We actually went through special forces, Green Beret training together. Spent many a day and night all over the world doing different crazy fun, awesome things never...we call it the Peter Pan life, never grow up.”

This past year, Tim was diagnosed with Goodpasture syndrome, a rare disorder in which your body mistakenly makes antibodies to attack the lungs and kidneys. In Tim's case, it was destroying his kidneys, putting him on dialysis and requiring him to be put on the kidney waiting list. What surprised him was the response from his circle of friends.

“Quite a few donors. So it was crazy. I just didn't know I had that good of friends. I mean, I knew I had good friends, when somebody offers to give you their kidney that just as that, bonds of brotherhood, in a very different way than just being friends.”

One of those potential donors was his old Green Beret buddy Kevin, the two had even made a pact that they would grow beards until Tim was doing better. Turns out he was a perfect match for Tim. And recently at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, Kevin donated his kidney to his longtime friend.

“It was like an instant reaction to me. You can have mine. I didn't even think about it was an easy decision. It was almost like a spiritual experience, felt very blessed. But now that I've been through the process, if I had more to give, I would be given them to everyone. I think everyone should be a donor. It's an act of great love and service to your fellow man. You're making so much difference to so many people.”
| TR | “You can change somebody's life. I mean, literally. Those who have been on dialysis will be able to relate, those who haven't. It is life changing and not in a good way being on dialysis. It wears you out, it tears you down, it hurts you and to have somebody step up and help you.” |
| TR | “How do you thank somebody who saved your life? This is the ultimate meaning of what our brotherhood means. I would lay down my life for you and war and I lay down my life for you here to. the Mayo” |

Font:
To learn more about kidney donation visit: DonateLife.net
You can find out more about kidney donation and how to become a donor by visiting donate life.net
For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.