



# Jill Stephenson

Leader. Motivator. Connector.

## About Jill

Jill speaks nationwide and is an active advocate for organizations such as the ILMFR, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors and American Gold Star Mothers. Through experiences in her career and personal life, Jill is able to provide peerless wisdom that exudes strength and encouragement. Through her adversities she has found the hidden blessings. She draws on her strength and has made it her mission to instill positivity, motivation and hope to all who experience hardships and difficulty moving forward. Jill knows how to grasp what life throws at us. She takes that energy and turns it into drive, motivation and success. Her voice speaks to a variety of audiences allowing her to be a featured speaker for Proctor & Gamble, the University of Minnesota and the US Army.

## Topics

### Power of Connections

*"Turn personal connections into business connections"*

### Leadership – Experience vs. Education

*"In a career pool of millennials, experience will still set you apart"*

### Positive Turn on Adversities & Perspective

*"Adversities change perspective, it's up to us to decide if it will be negative or positive"*

### Connect the Dots, Trust Your Past

*"All experiences can lead you into a better future"*

## Testimonials

When you want a speaker with rich stories, personal depth, and tailored messaging to your audience, you want Jill Stephenson! Both at corporate events and private fundraising engagements, Jill grabs the audience and moves them deeply. The combination of her corporate sensibility and her life experiences make her one of the best speakers I've heard in 16 years.

- Susan V. , Proctor & Gamble, Associate Director, Brand & Business Service.

I have had the opportunity to hear Jill speak on a number of occasions, and each time I listen to her, I am overwhelmed and touched. Jill speaks to the heart, she mixes personal experience with contemporary challenges and situations, and has a positive impact on all she meets. I cherish each opportunity to listen to her, as her sincerity, experience and positive inspiration make me better for the experience.

- Je M. , Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army, retired.

America's involvement in recent wars is one of the most difficult and contentious topics that students in my course consider. When Jill brought her passion and pride to my classroom, telling the story of her son's service and their shared sacrifice, she was able to reframe the war discussion. What had been divisive and political became human. Rather than causing an argument, Jill brought my students closer together. Her visit was the most powerful learning experience of the semester.

- Jon L. , Professor, University of MN School of Social Work.

## To Book Jill Stephenson:

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## For More Information:

[IamJillStephenson.com](http://IamJillStephenson.com)



# Biography

She spent over 20 years in corporate leadership positions. Little did she know, her life events would steer her down a different career path.

In her eyes, being a mother to Benjamin Kopp was her largest blessing and gave her life meaning. At age 13, Ben vowed to serve his country and expressed this with such determination. She knew then, that her son was destined for greatness. As a result of his determination, Ben became an Army Ranger and served with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. On July 10, 2009, Jill received a phone call that would change her life forever.

During his third deployment, but first in Afghanistan, Ben saved the lives of six of his fellow soldiers before being wounded during a firefight. He survived his injuries long enough to make it back to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Due to the severity of his injuries, Ben was unable to overcome the trauma. He was then declared brain dead and removed from life support. Before his death, Ben ensured his living will state that he donate all of his organs, including bone, skin and tissue. His donations saved or enhanced the lives of 60 people. His heart still beats in a woman who resides in Winnetka, Illinois.

Jill formed a friendship with news reporter Bill Lunn, who was moved by her son's heroic story. In collaboration with Jill, Bill Lunn was able to publish his first book, "Heart of a Ranger". A book that outlines Ben Kopp's legacy, before and after death. They jointly conduct readings and book signings across the country.

## As Seen On...



HERALD-NEWS



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



Chicago Tribune



STARS & STRIPES

THE CAP TIMES

CHICAGO'S VERY OWN WGN9

CBS RADIO

## More Topics...

### Moving Forward after Tragedy

*"To move mountains, you must conquer life's adversities"*

### Building a Foundation of Support

*"Through all connections lives a circle of support you may not have known existed"*

### Raising a Humanitarian

*"Soldiers are not what they are perceived as, my son was a humanitarian first and the Ambassador of Afghanistan recognized it"*

### The Power of the Single Mother

*"Strong. Independent. Leader. The foundation of the Single Mother"*

### Keeping Hope Alive

*"Honor the past, but welcome the future"*

### Staying Neutral in Polarizing Topics

*"In a world of arguments and sides, put yourself in someone else's shoes. You will think before you react"*

### The Gift that Keeps on Giving

*"Organ donation enhances and saves the lives of so many. This is the ultimate 'Gift that Keeps on Giving'"*

### Why fight? Unite!

*"If we all spoke to one another with open minds, we would have more constructive conversations and less division."*

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