

# BATTLEARMS® Pays Tribute to The Last Jedi

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Star Wars is one of the most revered stories told in my lifetime. Beginning in 1977 with the release of “Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope,” the franchise captured hearts and imaginations around the world. Perhaps more impressive is the generational transcendence almost a half-century later. It’s no secret that foundational keys to timeless stories begin with great characters, and bringing those characters to life relies on exceptional talent and screen presence.

No conversation on this matter exists without homage to the indelible contributions made by admired actress and writer, Carrie Fisher. Her iconic portrayal of Princess Leia Organa, later General Leia Organa Solo after exchanging vows with Han on Endor, has left an enduring legacy with fans, as she established the character as a symbol of strength, leadership, and resilience in a galaxy far, far away.

Carrie Fisher’s passing in December of 2016 was a profound loss to the Star Wars community, but her impact continues to be felt, and her performances stand as a testament to her talent and influence within the beloved franchise. It was with such endearing respect that President and CEO of Battle Arms Development, Inc.® George Huang, tasked his team with building the BATTLEARMS® SOLO Blaster, inspired by the weapon of choice for Han Solo, the DL-44 Blaster.

The original plan behind the SOLO Blaster was to present the firearm, chambered in .22LR, to Fisher’s brother, Todd Fisher, who inherited much of the Star Wars memorabilia owned by his sister, and who maintains this collection alongside an extraordinary collection of Hollywood memorabilia left to him by his mother, famed actress, singer, and businesswoman, Debbie Reynolds.

Todd Fisher, in his graciousness, accepted the BATTLEARMS® SOLO Blaster into his collection, and invited us to get a glimpse of some of the most unimaginable keepsakes I have laid eyes on. One piece in particular was the lightsaber made for Carrie and meant for her use in “Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker.” Unfortunately this would not come to fruition as Fisher passed shortly after filming “Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi.” You can imagine the awe seeing it, much less holding it. I nearly fainted when I learned we were being asked to engrave the late actresses signature on her lightsaber. “For something we made, to be immortalized in a collection alongside a piece as cherished as her very last lightsaber is simply an honor” says George Huang.

Demand for the SOLO Blaster came swiftly after unveiling it to the public at the 2023 NRA Annual Meeting. In response, BATTLEARMS® produced a limited run of the SOLO Blaster, selling out almost immediately thereafter. When asked about plans to make more, Huang responded, “In the world of Star Wars and BATTLEARMS®, anything is possible.”

What many don’t know is that it was Fisher’s character, Leia, who was intended to be The Last Jedi prior to her passing, and that is how we are choosing to memorialize this timeless icon.