

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ladd Biro, Champion Management 972.930.9933; <u>lbiro@championmgt.com</u>

## Coalition to Salute America's Heroes Funds \$17,000 Grant to Combat Veteran Homelessness

## Funding of NACV's housing project supports initiative by Mayor Gray, DCOVA and Federal VA

*WASHINGTON, DC* (March 11, 2013) – The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (Coalition), a leading non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the lives of severely <u>wounded veterans</u> of the War on Terror, today announced the awarding of a \$17,000 grant to complete the construction of transitional housing for nine formerly homeless veterans living in Washington, D.C.

The project is being orchestrated by the National Association of Concerned Veterans (NACV) in response to a major initiative by District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray, the DC Office of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to end homelessness for District veterans by the year 2015.

This is the Coalition's second grant to the NACV, following a December 2012 award of \$5,000 to furnish nearly 60 veterans' homes. A third grant, which would fund most, if not all, of the costs of transitional housing for 17 female veterans with children is currently under active consideration by the Coalition's board of directors.

"We are extremely impressed by the important work being done by the NACV, in concert with Mayor Gray and the VA," said David Walker, President & CEO of the <u>Coalition to</u> <u>Salute America's Heroes</u>. "These projects align squarely with the Coalition's mission to bring hope and assistance directly to wounded veterans and their families. We believe there should be zero tolerance for homelessness among America's returning heroes."

The Coalition's \$17,000 grant will specifically fund the completion of interim and transitional housing for nine formerly homeless veterans at a residence in Northeast Washington, D.C. The project also includes supportive and wrap-around services, case management, childcare, education, and training through the Great Expectations "touch" program. The multi-unit property will be completed no later than February 15, 2013.

"We are very grateful to the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes for their generous support of this important project in our city," said Mayor Gray. "This is another important step toward fulfilling our commitment to end homelessness among veterans in the nation's capital. We still have our work cut out for us, but we are making real progress every day."

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, based in Leesburg, VA, has provided an invaluable lifeline to thousands of America's wounded veterans since its establishment in 2004. The Coalition is distinguished from other veteran-focused organizations by its direct financial assistance to America's wounded heroes. Its Emergency Financial Aid program has stopped foreclosure proceedings on veterans' homes and kept their vehicles from being repossessed. The organization regularly provides gift checks to cover meals, medical and utility bills, clothing, car repairs and even baby diapers.

For more information on the Coalition, and to learn how you can support its mission, visit <u>www.saluteheroes.org</u>.

To learn about the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs "Homeless Veterans Initiative," visit <u>www.va.gov/homeless/about\_the\_initiative.asp</u>.

###