

**PRESS RELEASE** 

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## DFW's Original Mud Run to Benefit Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

\$10 from registration fee for Spring 2014 events goes to wounded veterans charity

DALLAS (March 31, 2014) - It's time to get dirty!

And while you're at it, why not support wounded veterans of the global war on terrorism?

This Saturday, April 5, you can do both when the Original Mud Run returns to North Texas. Race organizers will donate \$10 to the <u>Coalition to Salute America's Heroes</u> for every runner that registers using the code HERO2014.

All funds will be dedicated to the Coalition's "<u>Heroes Thanking Heroes</u>" program, which provides part-time, flexible employment, basic training and work experience to wounded veterans, thereby preparing them for other potential jobs requiring similar skills.

"My wife Sarah and I have competed in several similar runs, and the <u>Original Mud Run</u> looked awesome," said Donny Daughenbaugh, a retired Marine who was shot in the face in Iraq and now serves as Regional Vice President of the Coalition. "So as we were signing up for this year's run, I decided to contact the organizers to see if they would be willing to make the Coalition a beneficiary of their race series. When they learned about our 'Heroes Thanking Heroes' program, they immediately grasped its significance and pledged their support."

The Original Mud Run's North Texas stop will be held Saturday, April 5, at 900 Bear Creek Road in Lancaster. This year's event features two military-style obstacle courses – a 5K with 20-plus obstacles and a 10K with 30-40 obstacles – for runners 12 years and older. A one-mile course is available for younger mudders.

The race heads to Nashville on May 3 and Houston on May 24. Those races will likewise benefit the Coalition.

"The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes is doing extraordinary work when it comes to serving our combat wounded men and women," said Vanessa Vavra, Marketing Director for Mud Run. "The mud run concept was the brainchild of our Race Director, a former Marine who was a part of the very first mud runs ever organized in the US while based in California in the late 1980s. We're especially impressed by the 'Heroes Thanking Heroes' program and hope everyone will come out Saturday, use the HERO2014 code and help us raise some much needed funding for this great organization."

Based in Leesburg, VA, the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes has provided an invaluable lifeline to thousands of America's wounded veterans since its establishment in 2004. The organization is distinguished from other veteran-focused groups 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, and to learn how you can support the Coalition's mission, visit www.saluteheroes.org.

For more details on the upcoming Mud Runs in Dallas, Nashville and Houston, visit <u>www.iMudRun.com</u>.

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