



# The Road to Recovery Report

An Update for Supporters of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

Volume 54 ★ September 2015

*Providing Emergency Aid  
to Troops Severely Disabled  
in the War on Terror*



“ [The Coalition] helped me out by keeping my lights and heat on when I couldn't afford to keep it on while trying to get better mentally. I see people like you giving back to my brothers in combat and I get goose bumps. ”

— Jeremiah B.,  
disabled Army veteran

## Help *now* to brighten a veteran's Christmas

As the dog days of summer draw to a close, at the Coalition we're already kicking it into high gear – hard at work preparing for our Thanksgiving and Christmas campaigns to brighten the holidays for our disabled heroes.

It may seem early to be thinking about the holidays, but we know planning and preparation are crucial to making sure we can help *every* severely disabled veteran who asks us for help putting a hot Thanksgiving meal on the table ... or

Christmas presents under the tree.

And there's no better feeling than knowing we've brightened a hero's day ... or saved his family from disaster. I hope you enjoy reading the stories of inspiration in your supporter-exclusive *Road to Recovery Report* that show how your patriotism and generosity are making a difference every day in the lives of true American heroes.

## Inside your Road to Recovery Report:

Letter from President David Walker  
page 2

Exciting Coalition News & Updates  
pages 4-7

Salute to a Special Hero:  
Patrick Thompson  
page 10

New Coalition Spokesman's Story  
of Hope  
page 12

Meet Our New Celebrity Friends!  
page 13

Thank YOU from Grateful Heroes  
page 16



# Letter from President David Walker

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Dear Friend of Our Wounded Heroes,

One of the most rewarding things about my job as President of the Coalition is hearing from the brave men and women you and I have helped together.

A few weeks before Memorial Day I received a powerful thank you note from an American soldier who has been struggling with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As with many victims of TBI and PTSD, it had taken him a while to realize the true nature of his injury and to seek professional help.

*"I have all the symptoms of a soldier who could easily commit suicide," he wrote. "I think about it quite often."*

His personal life had gone downhill and he was behind in the bills. We had heard of his plight and, without being asked, provided him with financial support as he sought therapy.

*"I don't like asking anyone for help," he wrote. "But the gift your organization sent me on Easter was spent on our utility bills, and we thanked God for you over our meal that evening. I am not a religious man, but I do believe in a higher power. I see people like you giving to my brothers in combat and I get goose bumps."*

I withhold this hero's full name out of respect for his privacy, but his letter made our day – and underscores a continuing challenge for all of us who care about the precious men and women who bear the burden of our nation's defense.

Because for the men and women who went to war to defend our families, our country, and our way of life, the battle doesn't end when they return home severely disabled and separate from service.

They need our support, our encouragement, and in some cases, our generosity. And they need to know that day in and day out a grateful nation will never forget the sacrifices they made.

That's why, every day, I am so grateful for your support. It fills me with hope to know that I can trust in patriotic Americans like you to do everything in your power to help our heroes on their road to recovery.

Thank you for your generosity – and for refusing to forget the terrible sacrifices made by our disabled War on Terror veterans. It's my honor to count you as a friend – and my pleasure to share with you these stories and updates of all the good we're doing together.

Gratefully yours,

David Walker  
President & CEO



## Your gifts help our severely disabled troops and veterans at Christmas and all year long

### Special \$500 gifts spread Christmas cheer

“*Receiving the \$500 check from the Coalition was shocking. I honestly am so grateful. I will be able to not worry about what I’m going to buy my two kids for Christmas.*”

— Kathleen Baker, disabled veteran

Coalition’s **Secret Santa Project** and **Christmas Angel Project** provide \$500 Christmas gift checks to heroes who were maimed, burned, blinded or suffered other severe injuries in Afghanistan or Iraq – so they can buy Christmas presents for their children.

The severely disabled troops and veterans your gift reaches are in financial dire straits – struggling to keep their home, pay the electric bill, and put food on the table. They

certainly don’t have money for extras like Christmas gifts.

We can’t stand the thought of children being heartbroken on Christmas morning because their wounded parent couldn’t afford gifts from Santa ... and as a faithful Coalition supporter, I know you feel the same way. Watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for updates on how you can help a wounded parent make sure his or her child doesn’t wake up Christmas morning with no presents under the tree.

### Holiday meals projects feed hungry heroes’ families

Coalition’s **Thanksgiving Meals Project** and **Easter Meals Project** provide hundreds of severely wounded troops with \$60 each so their families – who already sacrificed so much – can enjoy a special holiday meal.

As a faithful Coalition supporter, you know our disabled troops and veterans are struggling to put *any* food on the table – let alone a holiday dinner with all the trimmings.

Coalition’s meals projects are just another way your gift tells our severely disabled veterans you’re grateful for their sacrifices – brightening the holidays for veterans who might otherwise go hungry.

We’re already preparing for what I’m sure will be another successful Thanksgiving Meals drive. Stay tuned in upcoming months to read stories of the struggling families *your* generosity helped.



**Disabled veteran Juan Perez and his family enjoy a special holiday meal, thanks to your generosity!**

### Your emergency aid donations rescue heroes from hunger, homelessness

Coalition’s **Emergency Financial Aid Program** is at the heart of our mission to provide direct assistance – with your generous help – to our veterans severely disabled in the War on Terror.

A sluggish bureaucracy keeps disabled troops and veterans waiting 10 months on average (and often longer) for their first government

disability check. That wait spells disaster for severely disabled veterans who are unable to work – especially when their spouse often has to leave their job to become a full time caregiver.

Your gift to the Emergency Financial Aid Program will help a severely disabled veteran who needs help keeping a roof over his family’s

head, keeping food on the table, or keeping a car in the driveway. Sometimes he will use it for medical bills; sometimes she will use it to pay overdue utility bills. But no matter the emergency, rest assured your gift is drastically changing the life of a wounded hero who might otherwise go homeless, hungry, or suffer some other frightening hardship.





## You'll look forward to listening to the Coalition's radio program!

**D**id you know the Coalition sponsors an online radio show? **Today's American Veteran** is hosted by Emmy nominated actor, patriot, and good Coalition friend Jack Scalia.

Recent episodes include:

**A thought-provoking interview with actress Raquel Welch.** "Wounded veterans are not getting a fair break," she says. "It's much too difficult for them when they come home with serious injuries to try to raise their families and pay the rent or mortgage and other bills. I think if you are a real red, white and blue American, you always want to contribute."

**An inspirational interview with U.S. Navy bomb disposal combat veteran, CEO of Shoulder 2 Shoulder, Inc., and disabled veteran Master Chief Petty Officer Ken Falke (Ret.).** "I don't feel disabled," he says. "I sometimes think that injury actually propelled me to places

that maybe I never would have got to before. And I tend to think that is the normal that comes out of this wounded community. It's been 13 years of war and these guys and gals are beaten up and battered but nobody's broken. They want to get on with their lives and they want to thrive."

**An incredible interview with Coalition spokesperson Sgt. Mary Jessie Herrera, U.S. Army (Ret.).** "The round that hit my forearm ended up blowing everything out of my arm. The only thing attaching my hand to my arm was skin. It started my road to recovery. It was a whole year of therapy, 42 surgeries and a different outlook on life. They reconstructed with a cadaver bone and wrapped it in hardware."

You can tune into the Coalition's radio program online at [www.radioactivebroadcasting.sbc-inc.net](http://www.radioactivebroadcasting.sbc-inc.net) and search "Today's American Veteran."



### ◀ Coalition representative "Makes A Difference"

**C**oalition superstar Jil Hinds receives well-deserved recognition from the Veteran Affairs Advisory Board of Dekalb County, Georgia as a "Woman Who is Making a Difference in the Lives of Our Veterans, Our Military and Their Families."

### David Walker continues to ▶ champion our veterans

**T**he Coalition's David Walker was a speaker at the Department of Veterans Affairs "Veterans Economic Communities Initiative" launch event at the DC Chamber of Commerce on June 8th. The initiative's purpose is to increase the number of education and employment opportunities for our veterans and their families; and David was honored to be asked to speak.





## Coalition participates in exciting Never Quit event

In our last newsletter we shared with you that familiar Coalition faces Donny Daughenbaugh, Matthew Pennington, and Rob Jones would be representing the Coalition at Never Quit in Jacksonville, Florida. Well, the Coalition never quits and we're proud to report we sponsored, participated and kicked butt in 2015's NEVER QUIT!

Never Quit is a fitness event like no other, inspired by a commitment to healthy living, family, American values, support for our Armed Forces, and the power of *Never Quitting*.

See more photos of the event on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saluteheroes](http://www.facebook.com/saluteheroes).



## Ski program is therapy for disabled heroes

The Coalition's Col. Martin Badegian (Ret.) attended Family Ski Week, a charity event co-sponsored by the Coalition that hosts disabled veterans and their families in Breckenridge, Colorado each year. Wounded veterans and their families from all parts of the country attended this phenomenal event which is intended to help rebuild family bonds through counseling and shared family activities.





## Inspiring new Coalition blog series by disabled veteran Rob Jones

From October 2013 to April 2014, double-amputee and Marine veteran Rob Jones bicycled 5,180 miles across the country in support of veterans' charities including the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. Now he is attempting to compete in the 2016 Paralympics in the sport of triathlon ... and writing a blog series for the Coalition!

Recent posts include:

- “Dead and Reborn” – a searing post about the day he was injured that opens, “The first 10 seconds after waking up, all I could hear were my screams.”

- “Bronze,” about his experience rowing in the 2012 Paralympics.
- “Fifth Floor,” about his long recovery after losing both legs to an IED in Afghanistan. “It is easy to be motivated to succeed in the beginning of an endeavor, and when you are close to the end,” he says. “The most difficult part, and the part where people quit, is when they are in the thick of it, and it is unclear whether they have the strength and the stamina to make it the rest of the way.”

Read more at: <https://saluteheroes.org/about-us/blog/>



## New Coalition spokesman speaks at fundraiser

On Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> the Coalition hosted an exciting fundraising event at Wilhelm Family Vineyards in Elgin, Arizona. The event included tastings of Arizona wines and guest speaker Shilo Harris. (Read more about Shilo on page 12 of your newsletter.)

## Coalition grant to Purdue Able Flight Program helps disabled veterans learn to fly

The Coalition is proud to announce the donation of \$13,000 to the two veterans participating in this year's Purdue Able Flight Program – double last year's \$6,500 grant.

“It’s about the outcome,” Coalition President & CEO David Walker said. Able Flight’s mission is to offer people with disabilities a unique way to challenge themselves through flight training, and by doing so, gain greater self-confidence and self-reliance.

“You can’t describe how thankful you are for them to be able to provide these opportunities,” added John

Robinson, a quadriplegic veteran.

Able Flight was founded in 2006, in part to take advantage of a new FAA certification rule that provides an easier pathway for people with physical disabilities to medically qualify to become pilots. Able Flight was created by pilots who believe the life-changing experience of learning to fly is best shared; they created the Able Flight Scholarships to enable people with disabilities to pursue that experience.

Of the 23 scholarships awarded in Able Flight’s nine year history, six have gone to veterans wounded in combat.





## Coalition attends Warrior Games event

In June, Coalition President and CEO David Walker and Field Operations Vice President Donny Daughenbaugh represented the Coalition at the 2015 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games.

The games featured eight sporting events with approximately 250 athletes representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy/Coast Guard, Air Force, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the British Armed Forces. Adaptive sports and athletic reconditioning activities play a fundamental role in the recovery,

rehabilitation and reintegration of our service members and veterans. The events of the 2015 DoD Warrior Games promote the resiliency and warrior spirit of our wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, caregivers, and families.

David and Donny took the opportunity to spread the word about the Coalition, and participate in the Transition Fair – educating warrior teams about the services offered by the Coalition, including our one-of-a-kind Heroes Thanking Heroes work from home employment program.



## A snapshot of your generosity in action

While the Coalition pursues every opportunity to help America's veterans and spread the word about the challenges they face, we remain true to the heart of our mission: Providing severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, with emergency financial assistance to help them recover from their injuries and rebuild their lives.

Thanks to patriotic supporters like you, the Coalition has provided more than 30,000 separate emergency aid payments, grants, and holiday gift checks to our seriously wounded troops and their families. And we thought you'd be interested to read a few more *specific* ways your generosity helps America's heroes, when they need it most.

- The Coalition receives about 60 applications for

emergency financial aid (EFA) each week.

- On average we give out between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in emergency financial aid each week.
- The greatest percentage of EFA requests is for housing needs – avoiding eviction or foreclosure.
- In 2014, we disbursed \$175,000 in rent payments; \$80,000 in mortgage payments; \$121,000 for food and gas; \$30,000 in utility payments; and more.
- Since January 2013, requests for EFA have increased by 20%, growth we attribute to our Veterans Circle program creating awareness of the help we offer (thanks to your generosity!). We are so excited for this opportunity to help more and more heroes who truly need our assistance.





# Coalition honors our nation's veterans on Memorial Day

## David Walker honors our nation's heroes at the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C.



David Walker addresses the crowds attending the parade.

Coalition President David Walker had the honor of making a speech prior to the start of the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., joining several other high profile participants, including actors Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna, Miss America 2015 Kira Kazantsev, and alternative rock band The Smashing Pumpkins.

The parade, the nation's largest Memorial Day event, honors America's fallen heroes from the Revolutionary War through the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was broadcast live to troops stationed around the globe and to 1,500,000 national TV viewers from 400 unique media outlets. Hundreds of thousands of spectators lined the streets of D.C. to watch it live.

Walker spoke to the attendees before the parade began and during the parade presented a check to War on Terror veteran and double-amputee Aaron Causey and his family. David was joined by Coalition Field Representative (East) Matthew Pennington as they spread the word about what the Coalition provides. Being involved in this particular parade has become somewhat of a tradition for the Coalition and we look forward to being back again next year!



At the National Memorial Day Parade David Walker presented a check to disabled veteran Aaron Causey for his fund to build a home that would accommodate his disabilities.

## Coalition President David Walker Memorial Day op-ed

This excerpted op-ed, entitled "Paying heed to the walking wounded" first ran in the *Washington Times* on May 24, 2015.

Because we depend on such a small number of professional military people to carry the flag, many of them must return to the combat zones time and time again. All too often they come home with both physical injuries and less visible afflictions that render them unable of participating in normal life and that continue to haunt their dreams at night. It is easier and simpler to accommodate a missing arm or leg than it is to heal a shattered spirit.

**“It is easier and simpler to accommodate a missing arm or leg than it is to heal a shattered spirit.”**

Memorial Day offers an excellent opportunity for the rest of us to stand up and express our appreciation for the sacrifices these heroes have made, and to listen to their testimony. That actually is the only proven therapy for PTSD. Medical science has come up with all sorts of wondrous devices – advanced prostheses – to help wounded warriors compensate for missing limbs, but there are no pills or other medical magic to treat PTSD.

**“There are no pills or other medical magic to treat PTSD.”**

But there are ways we can help. The wounded warriors with PTSD derive great therapeutic benefit from discussing their experiences with people who are sympathetic and do not pass judgment. Sometimes, they can share with professional therapists, but anyone who cares can lend an ear – a minister, a neighbor or just a friend. The wounded veterans are most comfortable with others who share their experience and can relate to what they have been through, but in a real sense, their stories are our own stories. They have gone through hell so we didn't have to.”

**“They have gone through hell so we didn't have to.”**

Memorial Day also offers an excellent chance to express support for the spouses of these victims of TBI and PTSD, who must often bear full responsibility for their households, taking care of the children and paying the bills, while the warriors struggle to return to normalcy. These spouses – usually wives – are heroes, too, and they also need someone to listen. If you know one of these heroes, today would be a good opportunity to take some time from your busy schedule and lend an ear.





## Your generosity saved this disabled veteran's family from homelessness, hunger, and despair

**R**etired SSG Patrick Thompson joined the Army in 2004 to provide a better life for his family. After basic training he was quickly deployed to Afghanistan. He returned stateside for three years, but once again found himself deployed – this time to Iraq. In July 2013 Patrick was medically retired with nine years and two months of service.

Most of Patrick's injuries are the kind you *can't* see – and those are the most difficult to deal with. "Sure, he came home with beat up knees and had to have two surgeries," his wife Christine says. "He will likely live with chronic pain the rest of his life in his back. But those are things we can fix and we can deal with."

Harder to face are the injuries that aren't immediately apparent. Patrick suffers from severe PTSD and anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, paranoia, insomnia, nightmares, anger, irritability, bi-polar disorder, and substance abuse.

"We knew he would come back a different person but had no idea how much it would affect him," Christine says. "His struggle is real and debilitating."

"[When] you get injured, generally it is something doctors can fix. They stitch you up, bandage you up, put a cast on it, give you some medicine, and send you on your way. With mental illness it is not that easy. My husband's mental health issues have pretty much consumed him for the last 8 years. I wish there was one magic pill but there is not!"

The Thompson family discovered the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes when they found themselves homeless after Patrick left the Army. They received holiday meal gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas, which Christine describes as a dark time "when we had absolutely nothing and were drowning in debt." Soon after, struggling to get the benefits Patrick was entitled to, the Thompsons applied for emergency financial assistance to catch up on bills and keep their car from being repossessed.

And early this year Christine – who is Patrick's full time caregiver – began working part time with the Heroes Thanking Heroes program. "It is great because I am so busy with my husband's appointments that I can work flexible hours and from the convenience of my home," she says.



Grateful disabled veteran Patrick Thompson represents the Coalition in the Richmond Christmas parade with his wife Christine and their two daughters. "I felt it was the least we could do considering all that they have done to help us," Christine says.





## By the numbers: Your generosity at work

**W**hen the Coalition sends you a letter or an email asking for your help, it's often with a sense of urgency – “Won't you give *today*?” You should know that we employ that *same* urgency when it comes to helping our heroes. Because when someone contacts us pleading for help, they're nearly always in dire straits – just days away from losing their home, or already staring at empty cupboards.

When you send the Coalition a gift, it goes to work right away to help a disabled hero facing disaster. The list below highlights a handful of severely disabled veterans who recently asked us for help – and whose lives you and I are changing together.



**Army SPC Erina D. of Raeford, North Carolina** suffers from PTSD after serving in Afghanistan. She was in desperate need of \$642.76 to buy food and pay for her auto insurance.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$642.76

**Marine LCpl. Chad K. from New Richland, Minnesota** suffers from PTSD after serving in Iraq. He needed \$1,951.28 to avoid foreclosure and pay overdue utility bills.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$1,951.28

**Army Sgt. Kelley M. from Tamworth, New Hampshire** was medically retired after being paralyzed in Iraq. He needed \$1,277.23 to avert eviction and car repossession.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$1,277.23

**Army SPC Tracy B. from Houston, Texas** suffered a back injury while serving in Iraq – and asked for \$500.00 just to put food on the table.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$500.00

**Army SPC Daniel C., of Merrimack, New Hampshire** suffers from PTSD after serving in Iraq. He asked for \$1,655.14 to protect his family from foreclosure.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$1,655.14

**Marine SSgt. Joshua C. of Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania** was medically retired after being paralyzed in Iraq. He asked for \$500.00 to feed his family.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$500.00

**Marine Cpl. Joshua M.** was honorably discharged after serving in Afghanistan – service that left him with PTSD. He needed \$2,513.58 to avoid foreclosure and pay urgent medical expenses.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$2,513.58

**Air Force Airman First Class Rachel D. of Austin, Texas** was paralyzed while serving our country. She desperately needed \$1,000.00 to buy food and gas.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$1,000.00



*See page 14 of this newsletter to learn more about an easy way you can help make sure we always have the funds on hand to help our desperate heroes right away, when they need it most ... not in days or weeks, when it may be too late.*

### Reminder: Coalition is a CFC charity!

**I**f you're a federal employee, we'd like to remind you that the Coalition is on the National/International 2015 Combined Federal Campaign Charity List. Selecting the Coalition as your CFC charity is an easy and exciting way to support our disabled heroes!



CFC #12523





## Coalition family welcomes disabled veteran Shilo Harris

War on Terror veteran Shilo Harris came from a family with deep roots in military service. The son of a Vietnam veteran, Shilo always knew he wanted to be a soldier. Shortly after September 11th he enlisted as a Cavalry Scout in the U.S. Army, and soon deployed to Iraq.

On his second deployment with the 10th Mountain Division Shilo was assigned near southern Baghdad. On February 19, 2007, Shilo’s armored vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED). The explosion injured the driver and took the lives of three of his fellow soldiers. Shilo survived, but the crushing explosion fractured his left collarbone and C-7 vertebrae. He was covered in severe third degree burns on 35% of his body – burns which ultimately cost Shilo his ears, the tip of his nose, and three fingers.

For 48 days, Shilo remained in a medically-induced coma. After regaining consciousness, his battle was only beginning; Shilo spent nearly three years recovering and undergoing intensive physical therapy at the burn unit of Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, Texas. While at BAMC, Shilo was the first soldier to participate in cutting-edge regenerative stem-cell research

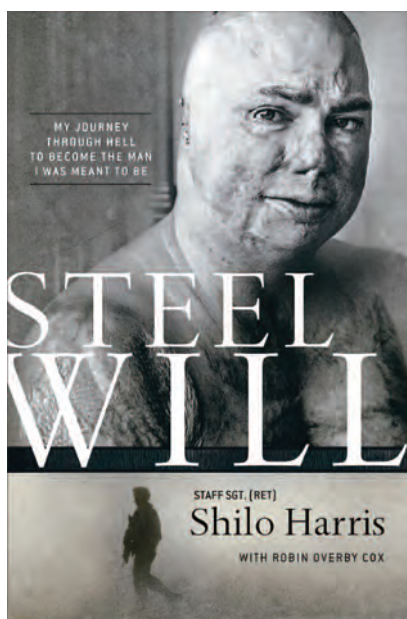
to regrow his fingers, and he later received prosthetic ears. Shilo’s recovery has involved more than 75 surgeries, requiring his family to spend up to six hours a day on wound care. Shilo also struggled with PTSD.



In 2010, three years after his injury, Shilo was medically retired from the Army. Despite his physical disabilities and struggle with PTSD, Shilo reflects positively on his time in the service and his injuries: “Everything in life is a gift. Sometimes it may not be the gift you want but you realize that your challenges are a new beginning.”

Shilo is a family man with five children, and is also a devout Christian. Today, Shilo is a motivational speaker, sharing his story with groups around the country, raising awareness for PTSD and serving as an inspiration to fellow soldiers. Last year he authored a book about his experience: *Steel Will: My Journey Through Hell to Become the Man I was Meant to Be*.

We are honored to have Shilo join our Coalition family as a national spokesman to share his inspirational story and spread our message about the road to recovery to patriotic Americans and severely disabled War on Terror veterans around the country.





*Celebrity friends help spread the Coalition's message to a broader audience, enabling us to help more heroes and educate more Americans about the plight of our nation's severely disabled War on Terror veterans. After filming PSAs with these celebrity friends, Coalition President David Walker asked them each the question: "Where does your love for America's veterans come from?" Below are their answers.*

## J.K. Simmons

**F**irst of all, it just comes from being a citizen of this country. But my particular ties involve my grandfather, who was a full-bird colonel and fought in both the big wars, and his three sons, my uncles, and the uncles on the other side of my family too, and then my dad, who served as well."



## Jason Alexander

**T**he fact that someone, especially in the wars that these guys have been asked to fight, where the mission is sometimes vague, and the end game is sometimes hard to imagine, that they are willing to sign up, and go over and fight this kind of a war, under these kinds of circumstances, and the treatment that they receive or rather don't receive when they get back, is one of the greatest shames this country has ever had. **So organizations like yours and others that are helping these men and women are just extraordinary. It's God's work. It's angels' work.** And anytime I get to dip a toe into that pool and be part of it, I'm honored to do so."

## Jack Black

**I** have a couple of family members in the service ... so I just appreciate what all our service men and women do for us. When I think about them out there in combat protecting us I think about how terrified I'd be if I was in their position, so I thank them for doing the hard stuff. **I've met quite a few veterans and some of them homeless veterans. And it just feels wrong. How can there be any homeless veterans?** They went out and put themselves in harm's way and then they come back and there's no support system. I know there is a support system but we can always do more."



**You**  [YouTube.com/user/SaluteHeroes:](https://www.YouTube.com/user/SaluteHeroes:)

The words above were pulled directly from our YouTube channel, where you can see interviews and PSAs with these and other celebrity friends.

On our channel you can also watch emotional and inspirational firsthand accounts from veterans, their wives, and their children, sharing how your generosity changed their lives. Stories like these are what keep us working, day in and day out, to support America's disabled heroes – so I hope you enjoy watching them.





## EASY monthly giving makes your gift go farther to help more disabled troops

**A**s a loyal supporter of the Coalition and our American military heroes, you already know countless severely wounded troops and veterans across our country are facing homelessness, hunger, and other hardships.

I'm sure you agree this isn't how we should "thank" our wounded troops for their service – especially those who have sacrificed life and limb fighting radical terrorists to preserve our safety and our freedoms.

**With that in mind, I hope you'll consider joining Partners for Heroes, the Coalition's monthly giving program, which allows you to automatically and securely donate to the Coalition by checking account or credit card.**

Your monthly gift ensures the Coalition has the desperately-needed funds to provide emergency aid to wounded heroes and their families – right away, before it's too late.

**Because every moment counts when your child is going hungry or you're about to lose your home.**

A predictable monthly income stream enables us to plan more efficiently – allowing us to rescue more disabled troops facing evictions, utility cutoffs, and other financial disasters.

And participating in **Partners for Heroes** has great benefits for you, as well:

- ★ Your monthly donation will be conveniently debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card each month. No more writing checks or searching for stamps! You can cancel at any time.
- ★ You'll receive fewer Coalition mailings, and the money saved on postage and printing will make your gift go farther each month.
- ★ At the end of the year, you will receive a helpful statement of your monthly donations for tax purposes.

Your monthly gift is important, no matter the amount.

To a hero who has lost his legs and can't work, or one whose wife has quit her job to care for her spouse as he battles PTSD, every dollar makes a huge difference in putting food on the table and keeping the lights on.

Please consider becoming a **Partners for Heroes** contributor today, so your monthly gift can start making a difference right away for more severely wounded service members and their families. See your enclosed reply form for more information on how to enroll.



## You've met our heroes . . . now please introduce us to yours!

**O**ur country has a long and proud tradition of heroic men and women who go above and beyond to answer the call of duty by joining the U.S. military.

In the pages of our newsletters, we've been honored to introduce you to some of our heroes – like double amputee Rob Jones, who pedaled 5,180 miles to raise money to help other wounded heroes, and Matthew Pennington, who speaks and writes about PTSD in an effort to raise awareness about coping with the invisible wounds of war.

But we realize you probably have a military hero of

your own, whether it's a grandfather who served in World War II or a daughter who served in the War on Terror.

If you share your own or a loved one's photo with us, we just might use it in an upcoming newsletter! Just drop it in the enclosed reply envelope with a few words about his or her story. And please consider making a donation in honor or in memory of your own hero.

*By returning your signed and dated photos and stories to the Coalition, you are authorizing us to use it in our email and direct mail efforts. We regret that photos cannot be returned, and we cannot feature all photos and stories.*



## Creative ways you can help our troops severely disabled in the War on Terror

Your *Road to Recovery Report* is chock full of success stories, thanks to generous donors like you. Together we've provided financial aid and other assistance to more than 30,000 troops and veterans severely disabled in the War on Terror. Your generous support shows you care deeply about our wounded heroes – so here are additional ways you can help.

- ★ **Volunteer your time and energy as a caregiver** to give the spouse or parent of a severely disabled service member a much-needed break.
- ★ **Offer to run errands** for a wounded service member or his/her spouse.
- ★ **Share your one-of-a-kind knowledge and skills with severely disabled troops** who need help developing new skills for job training, or networking and finding new career opportunities.
- ★ **Be a friend to a severely disabled hero.** The transition to civilian life can be difficult for severely disabled service members. Help them forget their pain and discomfort for a while and aid in their mental and emotional recovery by getting them out of their home or hospital room for an afternoon or evening.
- ★ **Show your support and raise awareness** by displaying Coalition-branded products like t-shirts, coffee mugs, and baseball caps. Visit [www.saluteheroeswebstore.org](http://www.saluteheroeswebstore.org) to check out all the ways to proudly display your support for the Coalition and our severely disabled veterans of the War on Terror.

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## Have you remembered our wounded heroes in your Will?

“*What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.*”

— Pericles, Greek orator

Leave a legacy of love and support for America's troops severely wounded in the War on Terror by remembering them in your Will or insurance policy. For a private and confidential discussion of how to leave the Coalition a charitable bequest, contact:

**Mary Price, Donor Relations Manager**  
Coalition to Salute America's Heroes  
**Direct line:** (703) 348-9914  
**Toll Free:** (888) 447-2588, Ext. 103  
[info@saluteheroes.org](mailto:info@saluteheroes.org)

*The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes does not provide legal or financial advice to prospective or current donors. Always consult with your attorney and financial advisor before making any important decisions regarding your estate.*





## How you are changing lives, one hero at a time

*Our Emergency Financial Aid Program is at the heart of our commitment to serving America's disabled War on Terror veterans. It is our honor to help them, with your faithful support – and there are few things as encouraging (and occasionally tear-jerking) as reading their heartfelt “thank you” after we’ve helped rescue them from the brink of hunger, homelessness, and despair.*



“I appreciate everything you are doing for me and my battle buddies. It made me cry the second I hung up the phone. You are truly a blessing!”

— *A disabled veteran and mother of two*



“I received the money for food and my landlord received the rent money today. Thank you so very much for all of your help. This has been a very stressful time and this has helped us make it through. You and your organization are outstanding. Thank you for all that you do for veterans.”

— *Leon M., disabled veteran*



“The contributions of your organization have helped my family and I in ways you couldn't imagine. The gift your organization sent me on Easter was spent on my utility bill and we thanked God for you over our meal that evening. I would like to return the gratitude by saying thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the support to me and my brothers and sisters in uniform.”

— *Disabled veteran Jeremiah B.*



“I am beyond grateful for the assistance that has been given. God bless you, and continue doing what you are doing helping others.”

— *P. Webster, wife of disabled veteran*

### We'd love to keep in touch!

Please consider sharing your email address with the Coalition. Write your email address on the enclosed newsletter reply form to hear more heartwarming stories like those featured in this **Road to Recovery Report** newsletter.

When you share your email address with the Coalition, you'll start receiving thank you notes, photos, and updates about how your generosity is improving the lives of our disabled heroes and their families.