



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Auto Body Technicians Volunteer Personal Time To Refurbish, Donate Wheelchair-Accessible Van to Help Combat-Wounded Veterans

Vehicle Unveiling

Thursday, August 6 – 11:00 am
Caliber Collision – Burke
5610 Sandy Lewis Dr. | Fairfax, VA 22032

FAIRFAX, VA (August 6, 2015) – Sgt. (Ret.) Matthew Pennington, a U.S. Army veteran who lost his left leg and incurred severe damage to his right leg while serving in Iraq, is one of many representatives of the [Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#) who will now have access to a newly refurbished wheelchair-accessible van donated as part of Caliber Collision's Recycled Rides™ program.

Recycled Rides is a nationwide program of the National Auto Body Council in which collision industry businesses – repair facilities, insurance companies, parts and material suppliers – team up to repair and donate vehicles to nonprofit service organizations and individuals in need. Caliber Collision associates at the Burke, Virginia location volunteered their personal time to refurbish the van provided by 1-800 Charity Cars.

For many wounded veterans like Pennington, transportation is a major obstacle as they adapt to their injuries and assimilate back into the civilian workforce.

Pennington serves as a field representative and national spokesman for the Coalition, a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the lives of severely wounded veterans of the War on Terror.

“We are pleased and honored to join the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes in helping restore rhythm to the lives of wounded heroes like Matthew,” said Steve Welch, Director of Operations for Caliber Collision. “All 6,500 Caliber Collision teammates are committed to supporting our local communities and military veterans who have given of themselves for our personal freedoms.”

“Matthew is one of several combat-wounded veterans who have honorably served and sacrificed for our nation and now work at the Coalition,” said David Walker, CEO of the Leesburg, VA-based organization, who joined Pennington at the vehicle unveiling. “Matthew and his colleagues will be using this wonderful vehicle to make visits to VA hospitals and attend other events as they serve and encourage wounded heroes and their families through their recovery process.”

In the past three years, Caliber Collision has donated more than 60 Recycled Ride vehicles nationwide. Caliber plans to donate at least 25 more vehicles in 2015 to military service members, veterans and first responders as a way to give back to the communities that Caliber serves.

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About Caliber Collision Centers

Caliber Collision is one of the largest collision repair companies in America with 310 I-CAR Gold Class Professional certified collision repair centers across 13 states. Caliber is consistently ranked among the highest customer satisfaction scores in the industry and backs all repair work with a written, lifetime warranty available at any of its 310 repair centers. For more information about Caliber Collision, please visit our website at www.calibercollision.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

About the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes

Since its establishment in 2004, the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes has provided an immediate, invaluable lifeline to thousands of America’s combat-wounded veterans. The Leesburg, VA-based 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 on the Coalition, and to learn how you can support its mission, visit saluteheroes.org.