



# The Road to Recovery Report

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

Volume 59 ★ Summer 2016

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



## Veterans Disabled Fighting Radical Islamic Terrorists Desperately Need Your Help This Summer

“Thank you for all that you do. There is so much that people like you do for us... In bad times, when we need it the most, there you are helping us.”

— Disabled veteran  
Fernando R.

Summer can be difficult for heroes severely disabled in the War on Terror.

Heat intensifies the pain of burns and scars, irritates sores caused by prosthetic limbs, and causes debilitating headaches.

On top of physical pain comes financial pain. Right now thousands of military families are running several months behind on their utility bills. Soon they may face electricity cutoffs, leaving them without air conditioning in sweltering heat.

Here at the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes we want to rush emergency financial aid to every wounded hero who needs it. But with many supporters on vacation and not reading their mail, fund-raising suffers – causing our vulnerable troops to suffer, too.

So as you relax and enjoy your summer, please stop for a moment to remember our disabled veterans. After all, without their painful sacrifices, the America we know and love would not exist.

## Inside your Road to Recovery Report:

Revolutionary Treatment Helping Heal Disabled Veterans  
page 3

How You Can Leave a Legacy of Love  
page 4

You're Helping: Here's the Proof  
page 5

Your Gift Made All the Difference This Easter...  
page 6



# Letter from President David Walker

## Board of Directors

**David W. Walker**  
President & Chief Executive Office

**LTC Thomas J. Orłowski**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Chairman

**Tom Sircher**  
Director

**Bruce Kelly**  
Secretary and Treasurer

**Command Master Chief Stephen Page**  
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)  
Director

**Matt Cary**  
Director

**Colonel Charles Bogle**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)

## Ambassador Corps

**Major General John K. Singlaub**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Chairman

**Master Sergeant Leroy Petry**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Medal of Honor recipient

**Senior Airman Daniel Acosta**  
USAF (Ret.)

**Colonel Evan G. Miller**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)

**SFC Dana Bowman**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)

**David Wetherell**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)

**Jimmy Gunn**  
Entertainer

**Jack Scalia**  
Actor

## Field Management Team

**Donny Daughenbaugh**  
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)  
Vice President, Field Operations

**Jorge De Leon**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Field Representative, Southwest

**Shilo Harris**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
National Spokesperson

**Mary Jessie Herrera**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Field Representative, West

**Jil Hinds**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Field Representative, Southeast

**Rob Jones**  
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)  
Field Representative

**Matthew Pennington**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Field Representative, East



Dear Friend of Our Wounded Heroes,

The treatment of our nation’s severely wounded, sick, and disabled veterans is an ongoing American tragedy – but one that is too often forgotten.

I’m sure you remember when you couldn’t open a newspaper without reading about the terrible mistreatment America’s disabled veterans were experiencing at the hands of our government’s health care system.

Too quickly, after the initial surge of outrage, these headlines faded from the front pages ... just as the War on Terror did. But for the men and women who went to war to **defend us against radical Islamic terrorists**, only to return home burned, blinded, paralyzed, missing limbs, or battling post-traumatic stress (PTS), the memories will never fade and the struggles will never go away.

My plea to you today is not to forget our veterans as you relax and enjoy time with your friends and family this summer. The many wonderful things America offers – and our freedom to enjoy them – are ours thanks to the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

Although summer is a slow time for raising money – as many of our faithful friends are traveling and not reading their mail – it’s a busy season for us at the Coalition. Among other projects, we’re hard at work preparing to host our 9th Road to Recovery Conference & Tribute (R2R) this December in Orlando, Florida.

About 100 combat-wounded servicemen and women, and their families, will attend the three-day, all-expenses-paid event. R2R is a profoundly life-changing experience featuring seminars, workshops, and panel discussions with experts from government, the private sector, and other veterans service organizations.

Many of the veterans who attend R2R are not just wounded physically, but emotionally as well. In addition to the emergency financial aid the Coalition provides, this conference offers hope, encouragement, and one-on-one support on their road to recovery.

This life-changing event is made possible only by friends like you who refuse to forget our heroes’ sacrifices. I’m so grateful for your support – and that you’re committed to helping them on their road to recovery, no matter how long it may be. Thank you for your generosity.

With gratitude,

David Walker  
President & CEO





## Your Generosity Helping to Heal Disabled Veterans Through Revolutionary Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

The Coalition is a proud supporter of the Rocky Mountain Hyperbaric Association for Brain Injuries' Healing Our Heroes program. The Coalition recently gave them a \$10,000 grant towards treatment of post-traumatic stress (PTS), for total grant contributions of over \$50,000 in the past two years.

Healing Our Heroes supports our disabled veterans by assisting with payments for hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) treatments and financial assistance for lodging for veterans who must travel to Colorado for treatment.

HBOT is an FDA-approved medical treatment which enhances the body's natural healing process by inhalation of 100% oxygen in a chamber where the atmospheric pressure is increased and controlled. It has been employed for decades to treat a variety of conditions but is particularly useful in the fields of neurology and wound care.

Many of our veterans have sustained PTS, Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), and Post Concussive Syndrome (PCS), with TBI and PTS being called the "signature wounds" of the War on Terror. Studies conducted using HBOT as an alternative therapy to medication show that patients have a dramatic increase in cognitive abilities, improved motor skills recovery, and a significant decrease in PTS symptoms.

To learn more about the revolutionary medicine behind HBOT, visit [www.rockymountainhyperbaricassociation.org](http://www.rockymountainhyperbaricassociation.org).



**“My name is Jared Prewitt** and I owe the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes a great, ginormous thank you! In 2006, I was ten feet away from an IED explosion. Following that, I would later be diagnosed with TBI, PTS, Lupus, blood clotting issues, and a panic attack. Then, on September 17th, 2014, I suffered an Ischemic Stroke that rendered me incapacitated for months with chronic migraines, lupus flares, and a mental state in disrepair.

The medical plan I was on at the time wasn't going to fix my issues; it was [like keeping] one nostril above water while piranhas ravaged the rest of my body. That's when I learned of the Healing Our Heroes program through Rocky Mountain Hyperbaric Association for Brain Injuries.

The rest is history. My son was born in January and I'm back in school earning a Masters Degree in Creative Writing from Full Sail University. A year ago, I didn't think that I could be a dad; now, I can do anything. The Rocky Mountain Hyperbaric Association for Brain Injuries changed my life.”



**“My name is Cody Casteel.** I'm a Marine Corps veteran who was injured in combat by a high-yield explosive. In 2009 I was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The only thing that has helped me with my issues are the treatments I have received at Rocky Mountain Hyperbaric. Thank you from my family and myself for your grant you made that has changed my life so much for the better.”



**Colonel Jim Gardon** deployed multiple times to Afghanistan and Iraq. As an Army Nurse he knew he had probably sustained TBIs, but thought he would improve over time. He was wrong; instead, the headaches, confusion, anger and nightmares got worse. Diagnosed with PTS and TBI, Jim was medically retired in 2010. “I was a wreck, an angry, withdrawn shell of the

person I once was,” he says. “Now, having completed my second round of HBOT at RMHABI, I am happy again, able to think clearly and sleeping better. I'm off all my medications now and ready to get on with my life!”



## Plan Ahead to Ensure Your Wishes Are Met and Continue Your Legacy of Love for America's Disabled Veterans

As you may know, without a Will, the court may have to decide how your estate should be disbursed. It's remarkably easy to ensure that you – not the government – have final control over your estate.

If you already have a Will, or even if you don't, the simplest way to include the Coalition in your Will is to call

and make an appointment with your attorney.

As you read the rest of your supporter-exclusive newsletter you'll see how much good a bequest from you can do for a struggling hero who was permanently disabled while defending our country and our families from radical Islamic terrorists.



## Leave a Legacy to Help Heroes Disabled Battling Islamic Terrorists

By remembering the Coalition in your Will or insurance policy, you continue your proud and patriotic legacy of service and sacrifice for America's severely disabled War on Terror troops and veterans for years to come.

There are many practical ways to be part of this legacy project – including:

- Transferring a life insurance policy;
- Contributing part of your retirement plan;
- Donating your home or other property;
- And many other options tailored to your situation.

No matter which option you choose, the important thing is that you'll be continuing your generous legacy of love and support for America's disabled War on Terror veterans ...

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 your attorney and financial advisor before making any important decisions regarding your estate.*



## Frequently Asked Questions About Leaving a Bequest to the Coalition

**I'm not rich by any means. Could a small charitable gift from me really make a difference?**

Yes! Most of our donors are people of modest means who have worked hard and saved all their lives. No amount is too small to help a disabled hero with nowhere else to turn – so a gift in *any* amount would be truly appreciated. Even the smallest gift can be combined with others to help America's disabled War on Terror veterans for decades.

**I'm considering naming the Coalition in my Will or insurance policy, but I believe my first obligation is taking care of my family. How can I do both?**

We understand completely. Here's an easy way to make sure your loved ones are taken care of first. Simply

designate a specific amount of money or percentage of your estate for them. Then give the Coalition a "residual gift," or the remainder. With proper planning you can take care of your family while leaving the Coalition and America's disabled War on Terror veterans a small but meaningful amount, like 5 percent.

**How do I make a bequest to the Coalition?**

Ask your attorney to add the following language to your Will: "I give, devise, and bequeath the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Tax ID# 52-1351773, 552 Fort Evans Road, Suite 300, Leesburg, VA 20176 [insert percentage, amount, or nature of gift, or 'remainder of estate'] to be used to provide emergency financial aid to America's disabled War on Terror veterans."



## Your Generosity at Work

**W**e are so grateful for your faithful support – and so are the veterans severely disabled battling radical Islam. It’s important to us to keep you updated on the practical and immediate ways your gift goes to work to help our heroes. Because your gifts are put to work in a very real way to help American heroes facing very real problems.

Whether they needed “just” \$232.96 to keep the lights on, or \$3,236.60 to avoid eviction, together we changed the lives of the heroes listed below. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to helping our disabled veterans, penny by penny, dollar by dollar, to make sure they don’t lose their homes, go hungry, or face another financial disaster.



**Army veteran Misty T. from Beckley, West Virginia** suffers from PTS after serving in Iraq. She asked for just \$232.96 to keep her electricity on.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$232.96

**Marine Lance Corporal Jesse B. from Spokane, Washington** was honorably discharged after serving in Iraq. He suffers from PTS, and asked for \$428.83 for urgent auto repairs.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$428.83

**Army Staff Sergeant Joshua I. from Bullard, Texas** suffers from PTS and was medically retired after serving in Afghanistan. He desperately needed \$500.00 to buy food and gas.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$500.00

**Army SPC Monique G. from Sacramento, California** suffers from post-traumatic stress after serving in Iraq. She needed \$821.35 to keep her car and buy food and gas.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$821.35

**Army veteran Milton W. from Swainsboro, Georgia** suffers from PTS after serving in Iraq. He desperately needed \$1,015.00 to pay his rent and keep a roof over his family’s head.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$1,015.00

**Army SPC Herschel L. from Lawrence, Indiana** was drowning in bills when he called us. He suffers from PTS after serving in Iraq, and needed \$1,814.07 for his mortgage, insurance payments, water and electric bills, and other expenses.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$1,814.07

**Army SSG Garrett O. from Corona, California** was facing eviction when he came to us for help. He suffers from PTS after serving in Iraq, and desperately needed \$2,013.99.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$2,013.99

**SFC George J.** has struggled with PTS since serving in Iraq and separating from the Army. He called asking for \$3,236.60 to avert an eviction and keep his car from repossession.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:  
\$3,236.60

*See page 4 of your newsletter to read about an important way you can have a long-term impact in the recovery of our disabled military heroes: by leaving a legacy of love for America’s severely disabled War on Terror veterans.*

### 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 2016 Combined Federal Campaign Charity List. Selecting the Coalition as your CFC charity is an easy and exciting way to support our disabled heroes!



#12523



## Easter Gifts Made a Critical Difference

*Easter can be a difficult day for the veterans severely disabled in the War on Terror. Their families are often struggling after enduring a long, cold winter, but they still want to put a hot holiday meal on the table and give their children a special Easter basket. So we asked our faithful supporters to give generously to send our heroes \$60 gift cards for Easter meals – and, as always, you stepped up to show your commitment to America’s veterans. Here’s what the heroes you helped want to tell you.*

“I wanted to express my gratitude for the generous Easter gift you provided for me. It really came at the most needy time. The night before I got the letter I was praying that I would get some money from somewhere because I only had \$5 to my name. Thank you so very much for brightening my Easter weekend!”

— Luis F.

“Your donation was not only able to help provide our family with a wonderful Easter meal, but also was able to help us buy Easter baskets for our two young children. It is because of donations like yours that our family was able to have a wonderful holiday and I hope you know how appreciative we are!”

— The L. Family

“I wanted to thank Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes for their generous gift ... [which] provided my wife and I the opportunity to order in a nice Easter meal. Thank you for thinking of the veterans who served and were injured and thank you for providing our family with a stress free meal on Easter.”

— Michael & Megan R.

“My wife and I were trying to figure out how we were going to be able to afford getting our daughter an Easter egg basket full of candy when we only had \$53 in the bank. We both would rather be broke than not get our daughter anything, so we spent most of it on her. If it wasn’t for your check we would have been eating a lot of ramen noodles! I’m not the best story teller, but what I’m trying to say is ... THANK YOU.”

— The P. Family

“Thank you so much for the gift of \$60.00. This is hard for me to say let alone type how much this means to us ... we are struggling. This gift couldn’t of come at a better time. I can’t wait to show the wife that we can get our four children Easter baskets.”

— James J.

### Please consider sharing your e-mail address

By providing your e-mail address on your enclosed newsletter reply form you’ll start receiving thank you notes, photos and updates about how your continued generosity is improving the lives of our disabled heroes and their families.