



January 2, 2018

## Open Letter to Donors

As we embark upon the New Year, permit me to thank you again for your continuing support and to remind any and all of you that the need for our work is still very much with us. Like you, I had hoped these interminable wars against terrorism would be over by now, but such is not the case. The evil zealots dedicated to death and destruction are something new on the political scene, a terrible force we have not encountered before. They strike by stealth against innocent people going about their daily lives – on the battlefields and in the streets of our cities. They are at war with civilization itself. This is not a mere quest for political power and influence like other forces of history. These people want nothing less than the total destruction of our values and way of life.

Against this beastly tide, we send our best and brightest young men and women to do battle wherever the terrorists rear their heads around the globe. Our brave young men and women in uniform are all that stand between us and the agents of chaos and destruction. We owe our continued existence to these guardians of our heritage. They bear the brunt of the battle on our behalf. They need and deserve our unstinting support.

Today, U.S. counter-terrorism forces are engaging the enemy in dozens of remote nations around the globe. They are mainly U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, but also agents of other federal agencies working under cover, identifying threats and dealing with them. They all deserve a prominent place in our hearts and prayers, as do their families who must often contend with the physical and spiritual injuries they incur, the awful legacies of countless battlefields.

We hope and pray our casualty lists will grow smaller, but there is no letup in sight and experience teaches us the carnage will get worse before it gets better. The lonely line of wounded coming home with missing limbs and broken spirits continues unabated and they often must wait months to receive their benefits that they have so nobly earned. During the interim, they are hard-pressed to pay the rent and take care of their children. We are one of the few organizations that step forward to fill that void – providing direct financial aid to veterans striving to adjust to civilian life with serious injuries and little cash in the bank. The need for our work will continue for some time to come – as will our need for your support.

In other words, we all still have a lot of work to do. In addition to direct financial aid, the Coalition continues to provide an array of vitally needed support for wounded veterans – in particular helping them deal with post-traumatic stress which all too often leads to substance abuse, domestic strife and in some dire cases – homelessness and suicide. One of the most effective things we do is bring numbers of them together to share their experiences and know they are not alone. It is a wonderful thing to be a part of.

Everyone here at the Coalition is devoted to serving those who bear the burden for our freedom, and we will continue to do so for as long as we enjoy the support of patriotic citizens like you. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to express our appreciation, or answer any questions you may have about our work in your name on behalf of wounded veterans.

David W. Walker  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Coalition to Salute America's Heroes