



The Road to Recovery Report

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

Volume 67 ★ June 2018

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



Don't Forget America's Heroes This Fourth of July

“Thank you for consistently being the most compassionate people and remembering our heroes.”

— Della W.,
wife of disabled veteran Jamie

Of course we love to celebrate America's veterans year-round. But the upcoming Fourth of July holiday is the *perfect* time to show them a little extra love!

That's why the *Road to Recovery Report* you're holding in your hands is jam-packed with stories about disabled War on Terror veterans your generous giving has helped recently.

From fathers whose lives were forever changed by war, to heroes whose lives were forever changed by *your*

generosity, I hope you're encouraged and uplifted by the stories you're about to read.

As you spend the Fourth of July enjoying time with friends and family, and remembering the service of courageous patriots from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror, I hope you'll also consider honoring the holiday – and our veterans – with a special patriotic gift to the Coalition. Your gift will tell a hero in distress that his sacrifice was not forgotten, and he is not alone. Thank you!

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Letter from President David Walker

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Dear Friend of Our Wounded Heroes,

Last month the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes celebrated our thirteenth anniversary of providing immediate, direct financial aid to heroes disabled in the War on Terror. We are 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.

Permit me to thank you again for your continuing support and to remind 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 want nothing less than the total destruction of our values and way of life. Against this beastly tide, we send our best and brightest 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. They bear the brunt of the battle on our behalf – and they need and deserve our unstinting support.

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 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.

We at the Coalition wish this were not the case – that the fighting would end, the stream of casualties would abate, and the need for our work, and our organization, would disappear. But our dream of peace remains just that – a dream. And our work, like the war itself, will continue well into the future.

In a few weeks we celebrate our nation's birthday – and as always, I'm reminded just how proud I am to be an American. Your compassion and generosity fill my heart with gratitude for the goodness of the American people and the values we together hold dear. I'm honored to stand with generous, caring friends like you.

With gratitude,

David W. Walker
President & CEO



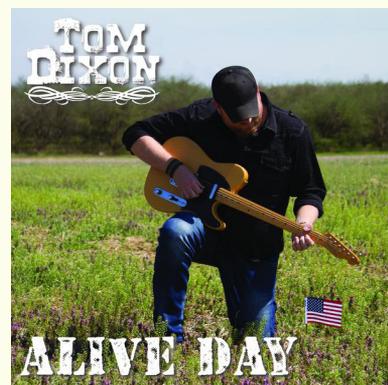


Your Generosity Providing Healing to Veterans with Service-Related Trauma

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes proudly provided a grant to the Warrior Mission Ranch for materials to build a new barn and for a specialized service dog training collar. Warrior Mission Ranch provides equine therapy and service dogs for veterans and first responders living with service-related trauma.

Purchase Tom Dixon Song *Alive Day* to Assist Disabled Veterans

Visit iTunes and search "Tom Dixon" or "Alive Day" to purchase this song with its message of hope for our heroes. A portion of the proceeds from this incredible song goes to the Coalition and will be used to continue to provide emergency aid and support to the men, women, and families affected by the War on Terror.



Veteran Dads Helped by Your Generosity

With Father's Day fast approaching, we thought you'd enjoy seeing some of the military fathers and their children who have been helped by Coalition friends like you.

Being a dad is never easy. But for men who have returned from war with physical and emotional scars, the job is even harder. Post-traumatic stress (PTS) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) leave them prone to anger and depression which can be tough on kids. Lost limbs and

other physical injuries make the simplest "dad activities" – like playing catch or holding a newborn – incredibly difficult. And for men struggling to keep a roof over their family's head or food on the table, fatherhood can be the scariest job in the world.

So this Father's Day, we're so grateful for your generosity – which helps struggling fathers care for their sons and daughters and makes their lives a little easier. Happy Father's Day from all of us here at the Coalition!



Army veteran David Nunez (left) holding his daughter. Retired Marine Lance Corporal Kevin Hanrahan (center) spending time with his son Kayden. Double-amputee Jack Zimmerman (right), a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, playing with his sons.



Heroes Thanking Heroes (HTH) provides part-time, flexible employment to wounded veterans or their primary caregivers, enabling them to make phone calls from their homes or hospitals, most often to personally thank donors for their contributions to the Coalition. More than 230 wounded veterans or their primary caregivers have participated in the program – responsible for over 2.5 million completed calls – since its inception in 2006.



Life as a Caregiver

by Coalition “Heroes Thanking Heroes” Representative Lacy Mullen

“I am the wife and caregiver of my hero and best friend Antonio. We have been married for 11 years. We met while my husband was serving in the Army. He was deployed twice to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and served a total of 9 years and 11 months in the Army before being medically retired in 2013.



The Mullen Family

Becoming a caregiver has dramatically changed my life. I knew when I married him there was a chance of injury, and even the possibility of becoming a young widow. But, until I heard he was injured, I think that’s when the reality of that really sank in.

Antonio has chronic PTS, TBI, back, hip, and knee injuries, as well as tinnitus. I have become his counselor, physical therapist, nurse, taxi, calendar, and so much more. Some being what any spouse would do, and others a little higher call to action.

I wish that others knew that being a caregiver is a choice. I have gotten so frustrated hearing people say to me that they are sorry that I must be my husband’s caregiver. That it’s not fair because I am so young. That they hate that I am missing out on so much. I don’t see it as unfair. I feel like I am rewarded with the ability to show my husband just how much I love him. I am fulfilling part of the promise I made when I said till death do us part. I feel fortunate enough to have someone to take care of. So many have lost their Hero and I still have mine, uniquely battered and bruised in his own perfectly imperfect way.”

Your Generosity Continues to Help Triple Amputee Find Hope

by Coalition Ambassador & Army Veteran J.D. Williams

“Four years ago, when my wife came across the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, I never imagined the journey we would soon be embarking on. Ashlee began working for the Heroes Thanking Heroes program and I could see a major change in her life. She had been so focused on caring for our daughter, Kaelyn, and me that she had forgotten that she mattered too.



Triple amputee J.D. Williams and wife Ashlee (left) with Army veteran Jack Zimmerman and wife Megan.

Ashlee being able to sustain employment from home worked out very well for our little family. Seeing the joy on her face one day when she had just finished a thank you call to a Coalition supporter spoke volumes.

Ashlee and I share a passion for helping other Veteran families. The

Coalition has been a great platform for us to get to know others who have been through similar circumstances as our family.

When I lost three of my limbs from an IED in 2010, my family was there for me through the survival phase, not knowing what my life would become. Then came the recovery, and every step of the way, they were with me. Though I will always face challenges as a triple amputee, I have recovered from my injuries because of my family and the support of others. Now I can focus on rebuilding my life for a better future.”

How You Stepped in for This Veteran When the VA Failed Him



Coalition President David Walker (far right) presents a \$12,000 emergency financial aid check to veteran Joshua Horton and wife Aria (center), accompanied by Horton's friend Michael Bond (far left).

In 2004, Marine Sgt. Joshua Horton was severely wounded while serving in Iraq. A close-range blast from an 82 mm Russian-made mortar pulverized three of his toes, broke his right ankle, blew off his calf muscle, severed an artery in his leg, and left him with hundreds of pieces of shrapnel in his body – many of which remain today.

And while Joshua was being evacuated, unconscious, to Walter Reed Medical Center, his wife was giving birth to quintuplets, one of which would not survive.

After leaving the military, Joshua became a police officer, and settled into a life raising his four surviving babies – two of whom have special needs – and their two older siblings. Then, in 2017 he received notice from the VA that due to a clerical error, he had been overpaid for nearly a decade and now owed nearly \$16,000. A large

portion of his disability payments was being garnished until that debt was repaid.

A friend, Michael Bond, started a GoFundMe to raise money to help Joshua pay back the funds and to help cover appeals-related legal costs. And when Coalition President David Walker heard about the veteran's plight, he immediately jumped into action with a \$12,000 emergency financial aid check to cover nearly half the money Joshua needed to raise.

While Walker was honored to be able to help this veteran by stepping in to fill the gap where the VA failed him, he was quick to acknowledge that it was only possible because of the generosity of Coalition donors like you. "When people see these kinds of things happen, the public will respond and help others," Walker says. "And that is how we keep this going."

“Combat-wounded veterans even today will be calling in or coming from our website, sending in an application, and using words like ‘repossess,’ ‘foreclose,’ and ‘evict.’ We provide on average, \$1,500 to keep them under roof, to keep food on the table, to keep the electricity and heat on, so they don’t use words like ‘suicide,’ ‘abuse,’ ‘homelessness,’ and ‘divorce.’ We’re a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), non-religious, non-partisan organization. But we act like a ministry. You cannot have a position like this and not have a sense of duty or heart to really effectively accomplish this.”

— Coalition President David Walker



One More Reason to Give CONFIDENTLY: The Coalition a Top Rated 2017 Nonprofit

The Coalition was named to the prestigious list of best nonprofit organizations in the world by the website GreatNonProfits. The Top-Rated Nonprofit award was based on the large number of positive reviews the Coalition received from volunteers, donors, and clients. We work tirelessly to support our veteran community and their families right away – when they need it most – and it is incredible to be recognized.

New Faces Come Alongside the Coalition in Support of America’s Veterans

The Coalition is proud to welcome our newest ambassador, Jeff Senour, a commercial airline/movie film pilot, husband, father, and professional singer/songwriter who is changing the world one song at a time as bandleader for CTS: Called To Serve. We also recently filmed a PSA with Deshauna Barber, an American beauty pageant titleholder (Miss USA 2016), motivational speaker, and captain in the United States Army Reserve. We’re honored to have Jeff and Deshauna’s support as they come alongside you and I to spread the word about the needs of our severely disabled War on Terror veterans.



Singer Jeff Senour in concert



Deshauna Barber with Coalition President David Walker

Help More Veterans by Becoming a Coalition Partner for Heroes!



Make your gift help more disabled veterans by joining the Coalition’s **Partners for Heroes** program today. It’s an easy way you can make an even bigger difference for struggling disabled veterans. And our monthly giving program has some great benefits for you, too!

- Each month, your monthly donation is conveniently debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card. No more writing checks or searching for stamps.
- We track your monthly giving; at the end of the year you receive a convenient donation statement for tax purposes.

- You’ll receive less mail from us – and the money we save on postage and printing helps your gifts go further each month. (We’ll keep sharing important updates and newsletters like this one with you!)
- You’re free to change, pause or cancel your Partners for Heroes membership at any time.

To enroll, just see your enclosed reply form. By becoming a Partner for Heroes today, you’ll save yourself time, make your giving go further, and help ensure we have the funds we need to provide emergency aid to wounded heroes and their families right away – when they need it most.



The Men & Women Your Gift Has Helped Recently

Helping our heroes is an honor and a privilege made possible by your generosity. So we're sharing the list below – highlighting a handful of severely disabled veterans who recently came to us for help – so you can see the practical and immediate ways your gift goes to work to help our heroes, penny by penny, and dollar by dollar.



Marine SSgt Ryan B. from Queensbury, New York, served our country in Afghanistan. He asked for \$257.90 for an oil bill to heat his home for the winter.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$257.90

Marine Sgt Brice T. from Raleigh, North Carolina, was paralyzed while serving in Afghanistan. He called the Coalition to ask for \$1,109.70 to help with auto expenses.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,109.70

Army SSG John C. from Colorado Springs, Colorado, needed \$408.04 to keep his cell phone and electricity from being turned off. John served in Afghanistan and suffers from PTS.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$408.04

Army SGT Clinton E. from Fort Worth, Texas, was medically retired after injuring his back serving in Iraq. He requested \$1,475.10 to catch up on bills and buy food for his family.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,475.10

Army SGT Keith W. from Denver, Colorado, suffers from PTS after serving in Iraq. He asked for \$500.00 to buy food and gas for his family.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$500.00

Army SPC William K. from Oakland, Maine, was paralyzed while serving in Iraq. He desperately needed \$2,160.22 to help with mortgage payments and auto expenses, and to buy food for his family.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$2,160.22

Army SPC Scott P. from Paris, Michigan, was medically retired after serving in Iraq. He desperately needed \$993.15 for medical bills and auto expenses.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$993.15

Army SSG Shan W. from Laurel, Indiana, suffered a back injury while serving in Iraq. He asked the Coalition for \$2,470.00 to pay his rent and help with car payments.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$2,470.00



**Reminder:
Coalition is a CFC Charity!**



If you're a federal employee, we'd like to remind you that the Coalition is on the National/International 2018 Combined Federal Campaign Charity List. Selecting the Coalition as your CFC charity is an easy and exciting way to support our disabled heroes!



“Thank You” for Giving These Heroes Hope

When your generosity allows us to support a disabled veteran financially, it’s not only a check you provide: it’s the hope to make it through another day. Whether your donation helps a hero contemplating suicide, or one who’s about to become homeless, when you give to the Coalition you’re giving to help a veteran find a will and a way to go on – and that’s exactly what you’ll find in the thank you notes below.

“I am writing this letter with my eyes fill with tears and heart warmed. I received the donation in the mail last night, I still can’t believe it. I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your amazing heart warming gift. I am a wounded warrior that is suffering from severe PTSD and TBI. I have had eleven jaw surgeries this year since February. I recently lost my vehicle and will be evicted out of my home in three days and I had no idea how I was going to live and where I was going to go. I gave up all hope and was not in a holiday mood. Then I received your letter and now I can get a hotel for a couple days for Christmas. Not only did it give me holiday cheer, but it gave me shelter for a couple days during Christmas. It is a good feeling to know that there are people that still care about us even after we have been wounded and can no longer serve.”

— Disabled veteran Donnis G.

“I was without hope, for the past week our power was out and I couldn’t fix it and I was feeling like my life insurance was of more use to my kids than I was. Then I got the call from the Coalition representative. She had the power on by that evening and continued to work our case with us. My family is so grateful for the assist. Truly a blessing.”

— Disabled veteran Jason S.

“I would like to thank you ... for the generous donation [which] came at the perfect time. It has been a long journey for both me and my family ... following my service with the Army in Iraq. I have been trying to catch up with home and vehicle payments. I was diagnosed with numerous medical conditions following a lung biopsy due to burn pit exposure which forced me to medically retire from state and federal service. We are grateful for the great Americans who contribute to your organization to assist Warriors and their families in a time of need.”

— Captain Le Roy T., U.S. Army (Ret.)

“Thank you so much for helping lift the troubles and struggles I am having ... [I] have lost range of motion in my right pinky due to the surgery and also lost range of extension in my right elbow since surgery as well. They don’t believe at this point that it will return. As far as [the] leg as of yesterday I have multiple locations at surgery sites that are infected ... Again I can’t express the amount of thankfulness and gratitude for all the help.”

— Disabled veteran Gregory G.

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 more thank you notes, photos, and updates about how your generosity is improving the lives of our disabled heroes and their families.