



PRESS RELEASE

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Combat-Wounded Veterans Gather for Heroes Freedom Weekend

Coalition to Salute America's Heroes hosts 34 married couples at extraordinary event in New York City Sept 27-Oct. 1

NEW YORK CITY (Sept. 26, 2018) – Nearly three dozen combat-wounded veterans and their spouses from across the nation will be converging on New York City this Thursday for the 2nd annual **Heroes Freedom Weekend**.

Hosted by the [Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#) (Coalition), a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the lives of severely wounded veterans of the War on Terror, the four-day event was created exclusively for wounded veterans and their married spouses who are current members of the Coalition's *Veterans Circle* program.

The all-expenses-paid retreat presents an extraordinary opportunity for veterans to develop stronger bonds with their spouse, build camaraderie and tour some of America's most sacred and historic landmarks. Among other once-in-a-lifetime highlights, participants will be led on a tour of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum by retired FDNY Lieutenant Joe Torillo, who was buried twice when the World Trade Center towers fell. Following the tour, the group will have lunch with members of FDNY 10, the famed firehouse at Ground Zero.

"Thousands of patriotic men and women joined the U.S. Armed Forces as a result of the 9/11 terror attacks, and too many of them, like me, returned from the battlefields with life-altering physical and/or mental wounds," said Donny Daughenbaugh, vice president of field operations for the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. "This event will not only be a life-affirming getaway for these 34 couples, but I am sure it will be cathartic for all of us, as we tour Ground Zero and interact directly with Lt. Torillo and his heroic comrades from FDNY 10."

Couples from the following cities, and others, have confirmed their attendance at Heroes Freedom Weekend 2018:

Clarksville, TN	Detroit, TX	Junction City, KS
Lansing, NY	League City, TX	Lenexa KS
Ludowici, GA	Lyndon, KS	Midlothian, VA
New Braunfels, TX	Rio Rancho, NM	Rochester Hills, MI
Saginaw, MI	Stow, OH	

Each of the participants is a member of the Veterans Circle Program, a free networking and resource group for wounded and disabled returning veterans operated by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. Last year's inaugural event drew 13 veteran couples and, due to its success, the Coalition nearly tripled this year's participation.

For more information about Coalition, visit www.saluteheroes.org.

About the Coalition

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. Its innovative Heroes Thanking Heroes program provides transitional, part-time, flexible employment to nearly 50 combat-wounded veterans or their primary caregivers, enabling them to make phone calls from their homes, usually to personally thank donors for their contributions to the Coalition.

For more information on the Coalition, and to learn how you can support its mission, visit www.saluteheroes.org. Combat-wounded/disabled OIF/OEF/OND veterans are invited to join the Coalition and expand their camaraderie network by enrolling in the Veteran Circle program at <http://saluteheroes-vetcircle.org>.

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