

The Road to Recovery Report

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

Volume 71 ★ May 2019

Providing Emergency Aid to Severely Disabled War on Terror Veterans and their Families



“I have nothing but wonderful things to say about the Coalition. They helped my family when we were behind on bills due to my wife having brain surgery. We were close to losing her car and behind on our electric bill. They got us caught up on all of the bills. I can't say “thank you” enough to all the supporters of the Coalition.”

— Disabled veteran Don C.

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

The Coalition has launched its 2019 Fourth of July Emergency Financial Aid Drive! Your support can help military families facing evictions and other disasters. Or it can help other struggling veterans avoid having their electricity shut off during the sweltering summer heat.

Your generous and much-needed gift will tell a hero in distress that his or her sacrifice was not forgotten, and they are not alone. So I hope you'll also consider honoring the holiday -- and our veterans

-- by making a special patriotic gift to the Coalition today.

This Fourth of July take a moment to remember the service of courageous patriots who have defended our nation from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror. Your *Road to Recovery Report* newsletter is full of heartwarming stories and photos about severely disabled veterans helped by the kindness of patriotic Americans like you, as well as information about those who urgently need help right now.

Inside Your Road to Recovery Report:

Letter from President David Walker
page 2

Coalition Connection: Doing More Good through Heroes Thanking Heroes
page 3

Update on the Global War on Terror
pages 4-5

What Will *Your* Legacy Be?
page 6

By the Numbers: Your Generosity in Action
page 7

Thanking *You* for Christmas in July
page 8





Letter from President David Walker

Board of Directors

Command Master Chief Stephen Page*
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
Chairman of the Board

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

Bruce Kelly*
Secretary & Treasurer

Tom Sircher*
Chairman Emeritus

David W. Walker
President & Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Cary*
Director

*Independent Voting Board Member

Ambassador Corps

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

Sgt. First Class Dana Bowman
U.S. Army (Ret.)

David Wetherell
U.S. Army (Ret.)

Staff Sergeant J.D. Williams
U.S. Army (Ret.)

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

Senior Airman Daniel Acosta
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Jack Scalia

Bonnie S. Tyrrell

Jimmy Gunn

Jeff Senour

Field Management Team

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

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

Jorge De Leon
U.S. Army (Ret.)
National Spokesperson

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

Colonel Martin L. Badegian
U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.)
Special Projects Officer



Dear Friend of Our Wounded Heroes,

With the Fourth of July holiday approaching, once again I put pen to paper to thank you for your patriotism and generosity. Your continuing support for our severely disabled veterans and their families tells me you understand something that so many others, unfortunately, do not:

The global War on Terror isn't over. In fact as I write this letter, we still have 14,000 troops in Afghanistan, 5,200 in Iraq and 2,000 in Syria.

And did you know we also have War on Terror troops stationed in Turkey, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain? Or that we have 7,500 U.S. servicemen and women stationed in Africa, and several were killed during 2018? It's true.

What's more, the solemn trail of returning wounded continues unabated. And as they return stateside many of them will need emergency financial aid to feed and clothe their families, and I know you'll be there for them.

President Teddy Roosevelt once said, "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

From my previous letters, you already know our wounded warriors are not getting a square deal from our government. On the contrary, they're often being forced to wait several months – and sometimes over a year – for their first VA disability check (after leaving the hospital and being separated from the military).

You and I must continue to be there holding a financial safety net to catch those who are falling into poverty or homelessness. Your Coalition's Emergency Financial Aid program serves that purpose ably and well. And I thank you again for supporting it.

Speaking of serving ably and well, I'd also like to introduce you to the new Chairman of the Board for the Coalition, Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Page. CMSgt Page served our nation in the Air Force for many years, and I'm pleased to welcome him into his new leadership role. You can read more about him on page 5.

This Fourth of July, please pause for a moment to remember all the men and women in uniform who have stood up so bravely to defend our faith, our freedom, and our families.

With gratitude,



David W. Walker
President & CEO





“The support your organization has provided in the past during probably the hardest times that have ever befallen me has been instrumental in giving me the extra jolt I needed to continue forward.”

– Jonathon V.

Coalition’s ‘Heroes Thanking Heroes’ Program Offers Disabled Veterans a Hand Up - Not a Handout

Veteran unemployment. Caregivers being dropped from VA support program. Rise in veteran homelessness. Veteran families in need of holiday help. Skyrocketing divorce rate. Veteran Suicide. THESE topics should be

in the headlines with a national cry for support – but they barely get a mention.

Did you know that our ‘Heroes Thanking Heroes Program’ helps directly & indirectly with all of these? Out of thousands of veteran service

organizations across the country, the Coalition is one of the only ones – if not the only one -- with a flexible, remote employment program for the wounded veteran, spouse or caregiver to help give them a mission, financial support, and self-worth!

A Special Thank YOU Message from a Veteran Caregiver and HTH Employee

“As I sit in the pickup line to get our four children from school, I was thinking about how crazy the past two months have been for our family. My husband Jonathan, an Iraq war veteran who is 100% disabled, was bedridden for nearly three weeks out of the past two months. We spent over 13 hours in the emergency room, attended numerous doctors’ appointments, and endured three spinal injections.



“There is absolutely no way I could have ever juggled taking care of my husband and our four kids along with working outside of the home! I have so much thankfulness for the Heroes Thanking Heroes program. Thanks to this program, we are able to pay the electric bill every month. I’m able to work when I can and still take care of our veteran and our children.

All of the leaders within this program have been a complete blessing to me during this challenging time. They are always understanding of our personal schedule and my work schedule, even stopping to pray with me about my husband’s illness. I have never felt so thankful in my life.

“Supporting the Heroes Thanking Heroes Program helps support caregivers like myself that would never be able to obtain a job outside of the home due to caring for our wounded veteran and families. Thank you for making this possible. You’re a blessing to our family and many others working within the Heroes Thanking Heroes program.”

With much love,
The Temples



Over 30,000 U.S. Troops Still Fighting Global War on Terror

While many Americans think the global War on Terror is over, you and I know that's far from true.

The war hardly makes the news anymore, but we still have more than 30,000 troops fighting radical Islamic terrorists around the globe, with more wounded warriors coming home all the time.

As they return stateside and leave the hospital many will find themselves fighting a second battle: A battle for financial survival.

And you and I must be there for them.

You already know the runaround our wounded warriors get from the federal bureaucracy when they try to get the disability payments they've more than earned. They're often being forced to wait several months – and sometimes over a year – for their first VA disability check (after leaving the hospital and being separated from the military).

Thank goodness patriots like you have been there for our veterans who have lost an arm or leg or have been severely burned, blinded, brain-damaged or suffered other catastrophic injuries while protecting us.

You and other faithful supporters have helped wounded warriors like retired Staff Sgt. J.D. Williams who is shown to the right.

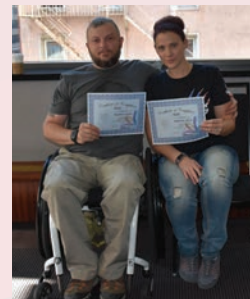


J.D. lost both legs and his right arm after stepping on an improvised explosive device (IED) while on patrol in Afghanistan. This hero says,

“I'd go back tomorrow if they asked me to in a heartbeat. Serving our country was the greatest thing I've done in my entire life.”

That's the kind of man you help when you donate

to the Coalition. Staff Sgt. Matt Owens, pictured to the right, is another War on Terror veteran wounded by an IED. Coalition donors helped Matt and his family with mortgage and car payment assistance when he was unable to work because of his war injuries.



By the way, here are three things you may not know about the Coalition – three more things that make it worthy of your long-term support:

First, before providing emergency financial aid we verify each veteran's injuries with their branch of service. That's how your gift is directed to those who truly need it.

Second, the Coalition provides direct financial aid. For example, if a wounded veteran is facing an eviction or utility cutoff, we pay the landlord or utility company directly. And if the veteran's car is about to be hauled away, we rush a check to the lender.

Third, your Coalition strives to help every single severely disabled veteran who requests help (and of course qualifies for it). But whether we succeed depends on the continued generosity of friends like you.

Because your Coalition has such a sterling reputation, other veterans' groups routinely refer wounded military heroes to us for direct financial assistance.

These organizations know we have donors with a heart of gold. Donors like you!

We pray that you continue supporting the good work we do for our disabled heroes.

One way to do that is to simply remind your friends and family that the War on Terror is not over. After you've read your **Road to Recovery Report** newsletter, consider sharing it with a friend or neighbor. And ask them not to forget the men and women who sacrificed for us so bravely. God bless you and our wounded warriors.

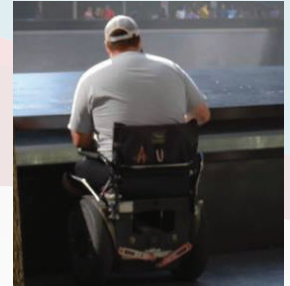
Do You Want to Do More to Help Our Heroes Rebuild their Lives?

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes has many opportunities for volunteering. Please reach out if you want to know more and join us in helping our nation's bravest heroes rebuild their lives. Call toll-free (888) 447-2588 or email info@saluteheroes.org.



Do you Know A Veteran Who Needs Our Help?

If you know a disabled War on Terror veteran who needs assistance, please email us at info@saluteheroes.org. If facing an eviction, a shut-off of utility services, or an emergency need due to a natural disaster, please have them call our emergency hotline at (703) 291-4605 and choose option 110 to speak with a Case Manager.



Please Welcome the New Chairman of the Board



Please join us in welcoming Command Master Chief (CMSgt) Stephen Page, U.S. Air Force (Ret.) as the Coalition’s new Chairman of the Board.

Page is uniquely suited to support the Coalition’s mission. His Air Force career was characterized by the kind of loyalty and support for fellow Airmen that earned him the distinction of the Air Force Times’s Airman of the Year just before his retirement in 2008. (A young combat-injured Airmen remembers CMSgt. Page telling him, “When you’re physically weak, I’ll carry you on my back if necessary.”)

After leaving the Air Force, Page was hand-selected as program manager for the first-ever Air Force Recovery Care Coordination Program for Wounded, Ill and Injured Airmen and their families, a program which provides a comprehensive non-medical case management system to ensure Airmen and their families can return to their “new normal” in their recovery, rehabilitation process. CMSgt Page will be sharing important updates with special Coalition friends like you in the near future, so be sure to watch your mailbox for his letters!

Congratulations to Our New Senior Director, Coalition Programs



Please join us in congratulating Sarah Daughenbaugh on her promotion to the new role of Senior Director, Coalition Programs! Sarah has been an exceptional contributor to the Coalition for several years as Director and Senior Team Leader of the Heroes Thanking Heroes (HTH) program. Her work not only on HTH, but also with the Veteran Circle and Donor Relations programs, has earned her this recognition. In addition to being a valued Coalition team member, Sarah also juggles being a caregiver to Marine veteran and Coalition spokesman Donny Daughenbaugh, and mother to three beautiful children!

Actor Michael Kelly Stands with YOU to Spread the Word About the Coalition’s One-of-a-Kind Mission



Coalition President & CEO David Walker had the pleasure of sharing our mission with actor Michael Kelly, known for his role on *House of Cards* and movies like *Everest*, *Now You See Me*, & *Dawn of the Dead*. Michael is a superb guy who genuinely expressed his interest in veteran suicide prevention.



Your Will Says A Lot About You: What Will Your Legacy Be?

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.”

— President Ronald Reagan

Leaving a charitable bequest to the Coalition creates an enduring personal legacy of support for America’s disabled War on Terror veterans. Your legacy gift to the Coalition is more than a donation; it’s an investment in your commitment to our heroes. Your past generosity has already proven your commitment to helping America’s wounded warriors. Don’t you want to continue that legacy of patriotism and support long after you’re gone?

There’s a simple and effective way you can do so. **To talk about how to make a gift annuity, or to donate stocks, bonds, property, or insurance, email us at info@saluteheroes.org or call (888) 447 - 2588 (Ext. 103)**. Now is the time to call – don’t wait! Your legacy, in any amount, is a testament to your enduring commitment to America’s disabled War on Terror veterans.

The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes does not provide legal or financial advice to prospective or current donors. Always consult with your attorney and financial advisor before making any important decisions regarding your estate.

Make Your Life Easier & Do MORE For Our Veterans: Become a Coalition Partner for Heroes Today!

Streamline your giving and make your gift go further by becoming a Coalition **Partners for Heroes** today. Our monthly giving program is a **simple and secure way you can make an even bigger difference for our struggling severely disabled veterans** – and it gives YOU some great benefits that make it as easy as possible for you to continue your faithful support for America’s heroes.

- ★ Each month your monthly donation is conveniently debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card. You don’t have to waste time writing checks, searching for stamps, or keeping track of our letters.
- ★ We track your monthly giving for you; 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 still keep sharing important program updates and newsletters with you, just like this one!)

You’re free to cancel at any time, no questions asked.

Please, become a Partner for Heroes today. It’s easy to enroll – just see your enclosed reply form! You’ll save yourself time and energy, 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.



By the Numbers: Your Generosity in Action

Have you ever wondered how our emergency financial aid process works? Every emergency request we receive is entered into a spreadsheet. Next, we verify the disabled veteran's service record with his or her branch of service, then rush the approved aid amount requested directly to the utility company, mortgage firm, or whoever is owed money by the disabled hero.

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 came to us for help – so you can see the practical and immediate ways your gift goes to help our heroes, penny by penny, and dollar by dollar.



Army Specialist Malcolm G. from Tacoma, Washington, was disabled while serving in Afghanistan. He desperately needed \$300.00 to buy food for his family.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$300.00

Air Force Senior Airman Judid E. from De Leon Springs, Florida, suffers from PTS after serving in Iraq. He asked for \$500.00 to buy food for his family.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$500.00

Karl J., a retired Marine Corporal from Murrieta, California, suffers from PTS after serving in Iraq. He desperately needed \$746.65 to keep his utilities -- gas, water, and electric -- from being shut off.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$746.65

Veteran Marine Staff Sergeant Jason B. from Jacksonville, North Carolina, is 100% disabled after injuring his back serving in Afghanistan. He contacted us asking for \$1,927.01 to cover his mortgage and for utilities and urgent auto expenses.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,927.01

Retired Marine Corporal Justin P. from Woodleaf, North Carolina, served in Afghanistan and suffers from paralysis. He asked us for \$1,000.00 for urgently needed home repairs.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,000.00

Retired Army Sergeant Demetrius D. from Sarasota, Florida, suffers from post-traumatic stress after serving in Afghanistan. He needed \$2,070.00 for his car payment and insurance.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$2,070.00

Retired Army Sergeant First Class Jefferson P. from Crystal River, Florida, suffers from post-traumatic stress after serving in Iraq. He needed \$1,262.42 for car payments and a cell phone bill.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,262.42

Veteran Marine Sergeant Raphael S. from Duluth, Georgia, was disabled while serving our country in Afghanistan. He needed \$2,577.80 to pay his rent.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$2,577.80

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



‘When I received your check it reminded me God is good and He didn’t forget me’

Wounded Heroes Grateful for Your Help ...

The Fourth of July might be right around the corner, but these grateful disabled veterans are still basking in the glow of the holiday cheer you brought them this Christmas! The heartfelt thank yous below came from heroes who received \$500 Secret Santa Checks from generous supporters like you. I hope these thank you notes inspire you to give generously once again!

“Christmas is always so magical for children. But [because] of my husband being 100% disabled and on a limited fixed income sometimes the financial part leaves us very stressed and worried. This year was different. I opened our gift check and cried with thankfulness. **This gift check allowed our children to have wonderful Santa gifts because of you.** The girls received baby dolls and one of our boys received a new watch and the other boy received new boots. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us to make Christmas so magical for our babies and so much less stressful for my husband and I.”

– Jessica T. (wife of a wounded veteran)

“Today in the mail we received such an unexpected blessing. Both my wife and I were overcome with joy. **Not knowing how we were going to have a Christmas for our children or even groceries this gift came as a miracle.** Thank you very much for giving us this wonderful blessing and for your kindness and generosity that will not only comfort us this season, but now our children will have a Christmas to remember complete with a turkey for dinner. This completes our peace at Christmas.”

– The R. Family

“Today I checked the mail to find a letter from Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes not thinking anything of it, maybe just a holiday greetings card. It was and then more, there was also a secret Santa gift, a check! This organization has helped us in the past with covering our mortgage payment and a car note for a month that saved us through a financial situation that my family and I was not prepared for. **You have once again helped us in a way that we will always be grateful for.**”

– Gunnery Sgt. Alexis P. (USMC, Ret.)

“Yesterday I opened my mail and found a gift from you in the amount of \$500. This gift could not have come at a better time. **I had two cars in the mechanic shop and I didn’t have any money to pay for the repairs.** So when I received your check it reminded me that God is good and he didn’t forget me. He used you to remind me of that by sending me a gift from you. It’s moments like this that reminds me of the wonderful country and people who are there for veterans. It’s moments like this that made it worth it to serve in the military and combat.”

– Disabled veteran Anthony P.

“I was in my garage today taking inventory on which tools I had to sell because Christmas was looking pretty light this year for my three children. As I stood there the mail man pulled up, I proceeded to check the mail worried about what bill I had waiting for me today and to my surprise I find a letter from Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes in my mail box, and it was accompanied by a Secret Santa Check for \$500.00. I had no earthly idea that this would show up. **A world of weight had been lifted off of my shoulders.** Thank you so very much.”

– The L. Family