

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**SURVIVE.  
RECOVER.  
REBUILD.**



[www.saluteheroes.org](http://www.saluteheroes.org)



# Letter to Supporters



Dear Patriotic Americans,

We are engaged in a war without end — something new in our history. Previous generations of Americans have fought bloody wars but they tended to be short. World War II lasted several years, but from the time our soldiers stormed ashore in Normandy on June 6, 1944, until Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, was less than a year.

By contrast, the War on Terrorism that launched on September 11, 2001, has gone on for 17 years and counting. There is a general perception afoot in our land that the war on terrorism is winding down. This is in part a result of declining coverage of the war zones in the news media which in 2018 and into 2019 has been focused on the ongoing political strife in Washington.

But ignoring the war will not make it go away. The hard truth is that this war is by no means winding down; it is expanding. We are currently fighting terrorists in 80 nations on six continents. This war is not just being waged by the Pentagon which has spent \$1.9 trillion during that time. The State Department has spent \$127 billion to train police, military and border patrol agents in many countries, and to develop antiterrorism education programs. The 80 nations participating in our war against terrorism include 40 military bases, 65 counterterrorism training facilities, 26 U.S. military exercises, 14 with troops actively engaged in combat and 7 where we manage air and drone strikes.

In sum, the widespread perception that our foreign wars are winding down is an illusion. As if to underscore that perception, President Trump announced that ISIS was defeated and he was ordering all of our troops out of Syria. Within days, ISIS blew up a restaurant in Syria killing four of our young people. ISIS is down but still out there plotting atrocities. The Taliban is making a major push to regain control of Afghanistan. Terrorism is a snake with many heads.

Despite rumors to the contrary, there is no evidence that the need for our services has evaporated. Today our forces — that includes U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard — but also agents of other federal and state agencies working under cover, identifying threats and dealing with them. They all need and deserve our support.

We all hope and pray that the casualty lists will disappear, but there is no end in sight. The wounded may not command as much media exposure today but they are still coming home with missing limbs and broken spirits. They often must wait weeks or months for the benefits they have earned and need. We remain one of the few organizations available to fill that void in addition to helping wounded veterans cope with post-traumatic stress and acquire useful employment in the private sector. We work with stressed military families to help them overcome their problems. We respond to calls for help from veterans on the point of suicide.

Everyone here at the Coalition is devoted to serving those who bear the burden of our freedom, we will continue to do so for as long as we have your support. If you have any questions about our work or our commitment to the cause, please contact us. The wounded veterans depend on us and we depend on you.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Walker".

David W. Walker  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## Board of Directors

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# Coalition Veteran Leadership



Mary Jessie Herrera Donny Daughenbaugh

The Coalition has appealed to thousands of federal workers through Combined Federal Campaign presentations and we are among an exclusive group that is represented globally in CFC Overseas.



The Coalition received a distinction in 2018 by the Better Business Bureau. It listed the Coalition as one of the top 26 nationally soliciting veterans and military service charities that meet the 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.



give.org



"I am a wounded warrior who is suffering from severe PTS and a TBI. I have had eleven jaw surgeries this year. I recently lost my vehicle and was going to 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, then I received your letter and a holiday gift check..."

Disabled Veteran D. Greenwood

# Year in Review

In 2018, as in every year the Coalition was active and noisy, participating in a variety of events on behalf of wounded veterans here, there and everywhere, celebrating their sacrifice for our country, doing all we can to raise public awareness of their struggle and support for our shared cause. Often times the people we help are surprised and emotionally moved to receive our support, whether in terms of cash to cover bills or any of the other direct services we provide. You will see a few samples of their gratitude along the left side of this page.



The Coalition's Heroes Thanking Heroes (HTH) team member, Ashlee Williams, was in Washington, D.C., during **National Caregivers Month** (November) advocating on behalf of military caregivers across the nation. Ashlee, who takes care of her veteran husband J.D., (shown in photograph), met with Congressman Brett Guthrie to discuss the veterans' caregiver program which helps veterans like J.D. receive care from family members. Ashlee was also instrumental to leading the Coalition in joining 13 other organizations in a letter to Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) about the cutbacks in financial support from the Veterans Administration (VA). These cutbacks are causing serious hardship and undermining the veterans' caregiver program which is essential to many veterans and their families. As a result, VA Secretary Robert Willkie promised to do everything he can to make sure those who need the caregiver program will not be kicked out of it.

In the autumn, the Coalition hosted more than two dozen combat-wounded veterans and their spouses from across the nation in New York City for the 2nd annual **Heroes Freedom Weekend**, a four-day event.

The all-expenses paid retreat was an extraordinary opportunity for veterans to develop stronger bonds with their spouses, build camaraderie with each other and tour some of our nation's most sacred historical landmarks. Among other once-in-a-lifetime highlights, they were led on a tour of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum by retired FDNY Lieutenant Joe Torillo who was somehow buried twice when the World Trade towers collapsed that terrible day. Following the tour, the group had another session with member of FDNY Company 10 in 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. 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. "This event was a life-affirming getaway for these couples."

The first event in 2017 drew 14 veteran couples. As a testament to that success, we doubled participation in 2018. With support of our donors, we hope to increase the number of participants in 2019.



## Coalition in the News

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 of Joshua's, Michael Bond, started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to help Joshua pay back the funds and help cover appeals-related costs. And when Coalition's President David Walker learned

of Joshua'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.

Walker said the Coalition's ability to help wounded veterans in distress like Joshua is made possible by generous donors who care about veterans and are willing to help through organizations like the Coalition.

The Coalition was named to the prestigious list of best nonprofit organizations in the world by the *GreatNonprofits.org* website. The Top-Rated Nonprofit award was based on the number of positive reviews the Coalition received from volunteers, donors and clients. "We work tirelessly to support wounded veterans," said Coalition CEO David Walker, "and it is most gratifying to be recognized in his manner."



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*).



**Sports Illustrated**

**abc NEWS**



**USA TODAY**

**Chicago Tribune**

**TIME**

**RUNNERS WORLD**

**Megyn Kelly TODAY**

**BOSTON Herald**



In the autumn, professional stock car driver Brandon Brown drove his Camaro sporting the Coalition's logo in the NASCAR xfinity Series. The exposure offered an outstanding opportunity for great visibility for the Coalition, for several of our ambassadors who attended the race, and for the heroic men and women we are here to serve. We look forward to giving more combat wounded veterans and their spouses/care-givers the opportunity to join us at certain tracks across the country in 2019.



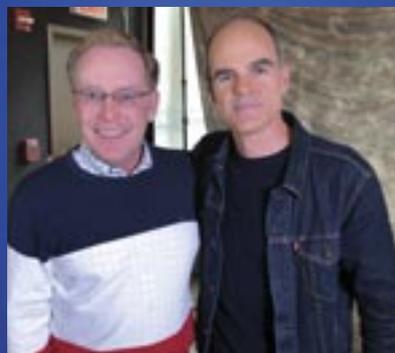
Celebrity Friends of the Coalition donate their time, energy and reputations to record public service announcements (PSAs) on our behalf that are shared nationwide.



Actor Ray Romano with Coalition President David Walker



Actor Robert Patrick, Jr. with Coalition President David Walker



Coalition President David Walker with actor Michael Kelly, Jr.

## Financial Summary

### REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Contributions	\$9,968,842
Gifts in Kind	\$7,111,252
Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$(275,361)
Realized Gain on Investments	\$54,870
Dividend and Interest Income	\$121,035
Other Income	\$217,867
<b>Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support</b>	<b>\$17,198,505</b>

### EXPENSES:

Program Services	
Veterans' Emergency Financial Aid	\$2,164,381
Veterans' Recovery Activities	\$3,574,405
Public Awareness of Veterans' Needs	\$8,269,363
Fundraising	\$3,495,507
Management and General	\$1,115,619
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,619,275</b>

### ASSETS:

Net Assets	\$1,957,813
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The Coalition 2018 Audited Financial Statement is available on request by contacting us at [info@saluteheroes.org](mailto:info@saluteheroes.org) or writing to: Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, 552 Fort Evans Road, Suite 300, Leesburg, VA 20176. A copy of the current Coalition IRS Form 990 can be viewed at [www.saluteheroes.org](http://www.saluteheroes.org)

## Volunteers and Ambassadors

The crucial mission of the Coalition can not be achieved without the massive support from our many Ambassadors and Volunteers at events across the globe. We are so thankful to these prestigious military figures, actors and actresses, entertainers and every day patriotic Americans.



# Coalition Boots on the Ground

Together our team of staff, board members, ambassadors and supporters work day in and day out to fulfill the needs of our nations' disabled veterans. We strive to create life-changing bonds within our communities through our various programs designed to help veterans and their families. Our work is so rewarding because of the people we meet; those who have sacrificed so much for our country, the spouses and caregivers who work with them and the many donors and supporters who share their time and resources. We are thankful for the opportunity to change or even save a life and we can only do it by joining forces.



## Coalition's Mission

The mission of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes is to help severely-wounded veterans and families of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Inherent Resolve recover from their injuries and illnesses, and to inspire other organizations and the general public to participate in this effort.

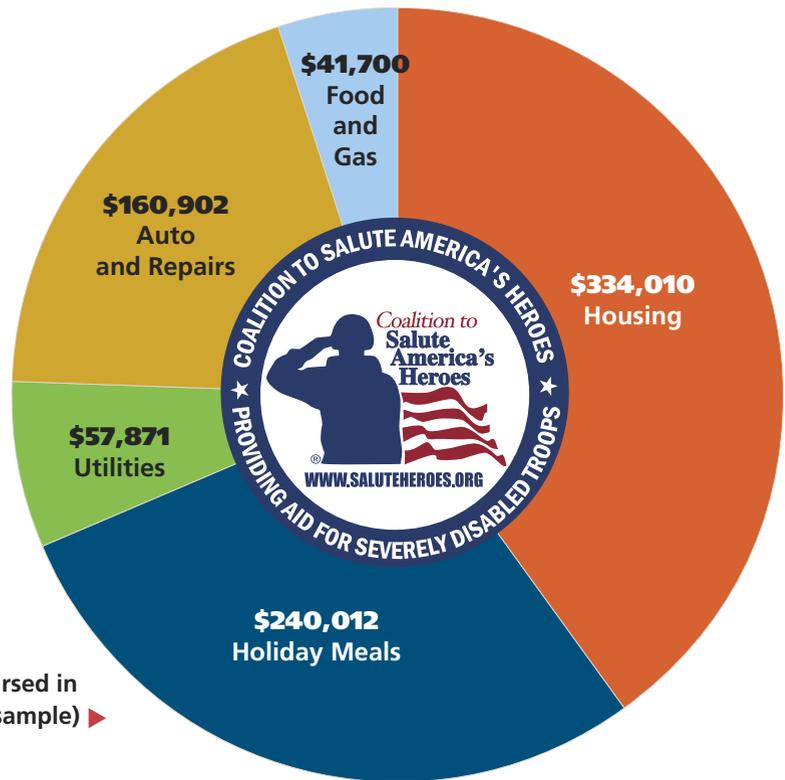
# 2018 Donations Making a Difference

## Emergency Financial Aid Program

We help severely wounded veterans and their families meet a wide range of day-to-day urgent financial needs — particularly if they are waiting for their disability benefits to begin (average wait time of 10 months) or have lost income because their spouse or parent had to quit working to become their caregiver. This direct financial aid is used to cover pressing basic expenses such as:

- ★ Utility bills
- ★ Mortgage and rent
- ★ Food and necessities
- ★ Car payments/repairs
- ★ Medical bills
- ★ Home maintenance

Financial aid disbursed in 2018 (a partial sample) ►



## Changing Veterans' Life



We verify applications and process payments quickly. (For the sake of their privacy, we do not give their full names.) Some examples of aid requested and fulfilled in 2018:

- ★ Veteran Ringner M., from TX was evacuated during Hurricane Harvey and had to move to a hotel. Ringner needed \$1,000 to assist with hotel, expenses, food, and gas.
- ★ Veteran Marine Sergeant Raphael S. from Duluth, GA was disabled while serving out country in Afghanistan. He needed \$2,577.80 for his rent.
- ★ Army Specialist Malcom G. from Tacoma, WA was disabled while serving in Afghanistan. He desperately needed \$300 to buy food for his family.
- ★ Veteran Rachel S. from FL was left homeless after Hurricane Irma. She requested \$1,100 to help pay for a hotel room, as she did not want to stay in a shelter due to PTS.

# Coalition Programs



## Veteran Circle Membership

A free membership designed to provide a network for America's combat-wounded troops. Qualified members receive numerous benefits including: being eligible for holiday meal and gift checks, receiving updates of events and employment options across the nation, special discounts, scholarship opportunities and the ability to communicate with other disabled veterans in a private environment.

## Public Awareness

A major thrust of the Coalition's work is raising awareness of the critical needs faced by many wounded veterans who often must wait months or even years to receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Therefore we engage in a variety of events such as parades, festivals, community events and assorted media appearances described in this publication. We also enlist celebrities who share public service messages for the Coalition.

## Road to Recovery Conference

An educational and motivational conference for wounded veterans and their families to enable them to approach the future with hope and to be better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. The all-expenses-paid program features seminars, workshops and panel discussions where attendees explore resources and services available to them. Experts from government, the private sector and other veteran-focused non-profit groups are also on hand to offer advice and guidance on such topics as; family counseling, career assessment and transition, money management, alternative therapy and personal growth.

## Gift in Kind

Our relationship with other non-profit organizations allows us to be the key factor in facilitating the disbursement of donated goods. In 2017, we partnered with Feed the Children and successfully distributed thousands of books and food items to military bases across the nation.

## Grant Program

The Coalition provides direct funding to thousands of wounded veterans in need, and also offers grants to other organizations that support disabled veterans and their families in a variety of ways. For example, in 2017, we provided a grant to Beds for the Brave to supply bed frames and bedding for 50 homeless veterans (shown above). We also proudly provided grants to the Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence, Veterans Court Fund and to Veterans on the Rise for their outstanding support for veterans.

## Heroes Thanking Heroes

The Heroes Thanking Heroes program (HTH) is a short-term internal employment program that offers severely wounded veterans (who meet certain eligibility requirements), their spouses or caregivers the opportunity to work at home on a part-time basis. The participants have flexible hours and learn valuable skills by working in a virtual call center. More than 230 members of the veteran community have participated in HTH since inception. Many in the program have found improved motivation and self-esteem as they contribute to the household finances, gain a sense of purpose and develop a supportive peer network.

## Coalition Friends:

Tony Danza	Tommy Lasorda	Robert Patrick
Danny Aiello	Brenda Lee	Jason Ritter
Jason Alexander	William H. Macy	Kenny Rogers
Ashley Bell	Joe Mantegna	Ray Romano
Jack Black	Katharine McPhee	Jack Scalia
Dree Brees	Craig T. Nelson	J. K. Simmons
Lynda Carter	Bebe Neuwirth	Joe Theismann
Larry Csonka	Jack Nicklaus	Rusty Wallace
Charlie Daniels	Oak Ridge Boys	



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