



The Road to Recovery Report

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

Volume 75 ★ March 2020

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



“Thank you for consistently being the most compassionate people and remembering our heroes! My husband was feeling forgotten and fighting a bad bout of depression this past Easter but you helped him so much (and in turn helped our whole family) by lifting his spirits to where we couldn't.”

— A. Gonzalez,
wife of blinded veteran

It's Not Too Early: Let's Help Struggling Disabled Veterans This Easter!

As you read this month's *Road to Recovery Report*, you'll see a common thread woven throughout its stories: **our holiday meals program**, which provides checks for a special meal to America's disabled veterans and their families for Easter and Thanksgiving.

Holiday meals checks are one of the simplest ways we help our heroes – but their impact goes beyond “just” food on the table for our struggling veteran families! The gift of a special meal brightens the day for military families struggling to pay bills and feed their families ... and reminds

our heroes that grateful Americans around the country haven't forgotten their sacrifices. (Turn to page 8 to read heartfelt “thank you” from a few of the hundreds of veterans who we sent a meals check to this Thanksgiving!)

But we need your continued support to make sure we're ready this Easter! We're counting on you to help make sure we don't have to turn away even one severely disabled veteran who needs help putting an Easter meal on the table for his or her family. We hope it inspires your generosity and warms your heart to hear the good your giving is doing for our heroes.

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Letter from President David Walker

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Dear Friend of Our Wounded Heroes,

As usual, the winter months seem to drag on, but as I sit down to write to you my heart is still full from the good you and I did together this past Thanksgiving and Christmas to help our disabled heroes.

In the months leading up to the holidays, the Coalition kicks it into overtime to help brighten the season for America's War on Terror veterans. Distributing checks for holiday meals, "Secret Santa" presents for veteran families, or emergency financial aid is truly a rewarding experience.

But the greatest reward and joy comes after the flurry of activity begins to settle and messages of gratitude and joy start pouring in from the heroes we helped. These calls, notes, and emails are often powerful enough to move me to tears – stories of hope and redemption that are so much greater than you might imagine could follow a simple gift of holiday cheer.

Take, for example, the email we received below from disabled Army veteran SSG Jamie P. After we helped Jaime and his family – a wife and two young daughters – with emergency financial aid to avert a car repossession and foreclosure on the their home, he wrote:

"With the help of Coalition to Salute America's Heroes we are able to catch up with our mortgage and a car payment which we are a month behind. It reduces the stress in the house knowing that we will not be put under foreclosure warning with our bank and worrying about losing our home.

It meant a lot emotionally that there [are] a lot of good people like your organization that are willing to help in difficult times especially with the wounded veterans. It gave us hope to continue to recover mentally, emotionally, and financially...

I see the world as black and white and **it is good to know that there are good and generous people in the world willing to help when asking for help is hard. I can't thank you enough for helping us keep our home and the car that my wife uses to go to school and work."**

Let that sink in. The generosity of donors like you kept a disabled veteran family from becoming homeless and losing their car just weeks before Christmas. And it may even have kept a struggling veteran, battling the demons of PTSD, from losing all hope during the holidays.

I hope you'll keep this story in mind as you consider giving again to help a hero's family this Easter. And I hope you know just how grateful I am to have the support of patriotic Americans like you as we do everything in our power to help those who gave so much to defend our freedom.

Gratefully yours,

David W. Walker
President & CEO





Your Gift is Making A Difference All Year Long! From Easter to Christmas, Meals Brighten the Holidays for Severely Disabled Veterans

For a severely disabled veteran who's struggling to pay the bills each month, the holidays can quickly become a time of stress and despair instead of joy – especially for veterans with young children. That's where our Easter and Thanksgiving Meals Projects come in.

Your gift helps provide thousands of severely disabled veterans with \$60 to enjoy a holiday meal. For a military family struggling to put any food on the table, the gift of a special holiday dinner with all the trimmings provides a welcome respite from desperate

worry and the opportunity to enjoy time together as a family. Our meals projects are another wonderful way patriotic supporters like you tell our severely disabled veterans that you're grateful for their sacrifice and that they're not alone – especially during the holidays.

Right now our 2020 Easter Meals Project is in full swing – and your help is urgently needed to make it a success! Read more about it in the enclosed letter from retired Major General Singlaub.



Veteran David S. shown above wrote: "I would like to express my gratitude for the generous gift that you sent to me and my family for Thanksgiving. We had a wonderful and delicious meal which was purchased with your gift. May God Bless you all."

Emergency Financial Aid Helps Avert Veteran Homelessness and Hunger

Our Emergency Financial Aid (EFA) program is the bedrock of our mission to provide direct, immediate financial assistance to America's wounded warriors – made possible by the generosity of patriotic Americans like you.

The combination of delayed

government benefits, crippling disabilities keeping veterans from being able to work, and spouses who serve as full-time caregivers too often spells disaster for struggling heroes.

Your donation to the EFA program is truly a lifeline to these wounded warriors. Your gift goes to work overnight to help a disabled

veteran with everything from putting food on the table to keeping a roof over his family's head ... paying medical bills or keeping the lights on. Your gift can make all the difference to a wounded hero who otherwise might become homeless, go hungry, or suffer another frightening hardship.



Your Holiday Generosity Provides Veterans' Children with Presents "From Santa"

Another way we support our veterans is through our Secret Santa and Christmas Angel Projects. Generous donors like you help provide \$500 Christmas gift checks, which we send to veterans who were severely wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq – so they can give their families a few Christmas presents.

Many of these wounded warriors are already choosing between keeping their homes, paying the electric bill, and putting food on the table. They don't have money for extras like Christmas gifts. The Secret Santa and Christmas Angel Projects help these heroes make sure their kids get a few toys "from Santa"!



Heroes Freedom Weekend ... Your Generosity Is Strengthening Veteran Marriages

In early November the Coalition sponsored its third annual Heroes Freedom Weekend (HFW) to strengthen marriages in our veteran community. We hosted 11 veteran couples for four days in historic colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, to bond with their spouses, build veteran friendships and tour some of our country's most famous historic and honored landmarks. Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, the Coalition was able to provide round-trip transportation and cover all program costs, accommodations, food, entrance fees, and tours for the couples attending.

HFW gives wounded veteran couples the opportunity to have a marriage building experience together, surrounded by other veteran couples and without the kids. The program gives the couples relationship tools to help them strengthen their marriages by exploring communication, conflict resolution, and situation de-escalation.

As one wife of a wounded warrior told us: **“We both felt this might be our last chance to save the marriage, but I didn’t have many expectations. [However,] my husband has opened up so much. I’m blown away.”** This was all made possible by kind, patriotic friends like you!



Thanksgiving Meals ...



After distributing \$60 Thanksgiving meals checks to hundreds of War on Terror veterans a few months ago, we were thrilled to receive many photos of their families enjoying their special holiday meals. Thank you for putting food on their tables and brightening their holidays!

Your Generosity Is Improving Veteran's Lives Across the Country!

The Coalition recently rolled into Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, to partner with Feed the Children for another very successful food and essential item distribution event. We distributed free boxes of food, hygiene products, and other essential items to local military families in need.



This holiday season, Santa and the Coalition used Southwest Airlines' Hobby Airport Mechanics to spread holiday cheer! Coalition Vice President and National Spokesperson Donny Daughenbaugh and Southwest Tech Ops Bob Voeller spoke to nearly 100 Hobby Airport SWA mechanics and line crews about the 4th year of these incredible employees taking on the task of providing a great Christmas for wounded, local veteran families! The mechanics raise the money and the Coalition identifies local families in need and your generosity make it all possible!



Rob Jones, the former Special Assistant to Coalition President David Walker, received an award at the American Veterans Center Honors Program event held towards the end of last year. David Walker was honored to join him on stage as part of the presentation. Rob also recently received the "Most Valuable Patriot" award at Fox Nation's inaugural Patriot Awards. Rob is a double-amputee veteran who ran 31 marathons in 31 days to raise money for veterans causes and is currently running for Congress in Virginia. He was a combat engineer in the Marine Corps when he was injured by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan in 2010.





Become a Partner for Heroes and Help MORE Veterans in 2020

Have you joined the Coalition’s Partners for Heroes program yet? The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to join our monthly giving program – and enjoy the great benefits that make it as easy as possible to continue your faithful patriotic support for America’s heroes.

Best of all, Partners for Heroes is a simple and secure way you can make an even bigger difference for our struggling severely disabled veterans of the global War on Terror.

- ★ Your monthly donation is conveniently debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card each month, so you don’t have to spend time writing checks or searching for stamps.
- ★ We track your monthly giving; at the end of the year you receive a convenient statement of donations 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 continue sharing important program updates and newsletters like this one.)

★ You’re free to cancel your Partners for Heroes membership at any time.

Your monthly gift can be life-changing in any amount. Because when you’ve lost a limb and can’t work, or your spouse has quit his or her job to care for you as you battle PTSD, every dollar matters . . . and every minute counts when you’re facing homelessness or your child is going hungry.

So I hope you’ll become a Partners for Heroes member today – to 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. To enroll, please see your enclosed reply form.

In 2020, Resolve to Do More for Our Disabled Heroes

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan”

— President Abraham Lincoln

By leaving a charitable bequest to the Coalition, you are helping care for those who bore the battle to defend our country, our freedom, and our families. Your past generosity has proven your commitment to helping America’s disabled War on Terror veterans. Don’t you want to continue that legacy of patriotism and support long after you’re gone?

Your legacy gift to the Coalition in any amount is more than a donation; it’s an investment in your ongoing commitment to our heroes. **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!

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.



By the Numbers: Your Generosity in Action!

We at the Coalition put in lots of work behind the scenes to support America's disabled War on Terror veterans. But one of the most rewarding moments we experience is when we're able to deliver emergency financial aid to a struggling hero – meeting their specific financial need, down to the penny.

The list below highlights a handful of severely disabled veterans who recently asked 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.

The needs are great – the process is simple – the gratitude is abundant – and **supporter, your generosity is changing lives.** It only takes **ONE** person – **YOU** – to make one veteran's life better!



Retired Army Private First Class Michael B. from San Antonio, Texas, suffers from PTSD after serving in Iraq. He desperately needed \$297.25 to pay his water bill.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$297.25

Army Specialist Bethany L. from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, suffers from PTSD after serving in Afghanistan. Bethany, who has an eight-year-old daughter, asked for \$383.87 to pay her electric bill and keep the lights on in their home.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$383.87

Marine Corporal Curt K. from Santa Fe, Tennessee, suffers from PTSD after serving in Iraq. He asked us for \$398.85 to pay his electric bill and keep the lights on in the home he shares with his wife and two children.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$398.85

Army Specialist Nathan J. from Lansing, New York, served in Afghanistan with the National Guard, and now suffers from PTSD. He desperately needed \$400.00 to buy

food and gas.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$400.00

Giancarlo, a Navy Petty Officer Second Class from Harrington Park, New Jersey, suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) serving in Afghanistan. He asked for \$500.00 to buy food for his family, including two young children.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$500.00

Army Sergeant Darrian K. from Miramar, Florida, suffers from PTSD after serving in Iraq. Darrian urgently needed \$1,550 to pay the rent on the home he shares with his wife and two young daughters.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,550.00

Retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant Paul M. from San Diego, California, was paralyzed while serving in Iraq. He desperately needed \$2,500.00 to pay his mortgage.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$2,500.00

One More Reason to Give CONFIDENTLY: The Coalition is a Top-Rated Nonprofit 3rd Year Running!

The Coalition was named to the prestigious list of best nonprofit organizations in the world by the website GreatNonprofits.org. 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 our veteran community and it is incredible to be recognized!





These Heroes Thank You for the Gift of a Holiday Meal

The difference the gift of a special holiday meal can make to a disabled veteran who's lost all hope is nearly indescribable. We want you to hear it in these heroes' own words – so we're sharing the heartfelt thank yous the Coalition recently received from heroes you and I helped together with \$60 Thanksgiving Meals Checks. I hope they inspire you to give generously again this Easter, and give more severely disabled veterans the simple but outlook-changing gift of a holiday meal!

"I received a check for the Thanksgiving meal and wanted to say a BIG thank you. Finances have been extremely tight and I just got a notice to vacate last week. We have to move by December 31st. **We don't have the money to move or the money for Christmas but, thanks to you, all we get to have a Thanksgiving. Through this darkness that we're going through you just blessed us with a major blessing and for that we can't thank you enough.** God bless you all."

— Disabled veteran Michael D.

"God is good! This could not have come at a better time. **We are struggling to make ends meet and my wife was in a minor accident due to the ice. This gift will provide a good Thanksgiving for our family and reminds me that there are people who genuinely care about injured servicemen and women.** God bless you all and Happy Thanksgiving!"

— Disabled veteran Lance G.

"First I'd like to say thank you so very much! It was a wonderful surprise at the end of a bad day . . . with this money I can be the one to provide my family with a turkey and a ham this year! **I'm an unemployed disabled combat veteran who can use all the help I can get at this point in my life.** So not only do I appreciate this gesture very much, but I will be sure to let everyone know where it came from. Thank you."

— Disabled veteran Robert B.

"**This donation not only brought hope to my current situation but it brought me out of a very dark place I was at mentally.** I can't thank you enough. Thank you for being there for us Soldiers and for caring like you do. I have been struggling to pay my bills and struggling to provide the basic necessities to meet my needs and my children's most of all, it's not a good year for us. Times like these you think about exiting life – and getting a \$60 check in the mail really brought hope into my life. It shows that people still care about those that are in the background, who used to be on the front line. Thank you again."

— Disabled veteran Christopher M.

"I wanted to thank all of you for the gift on Thanksgiving. My family and I are very grateful for the gift and for keeping me in your thoughts. **I really appreciate the support given to me and all veterans, not just because of the gift cards, but because of remembering us.** It is very important to feel appreciated for all the sacrifice done to keep our nation safe and free."

— Disabled veteran Carlos V.