



The Road to Recovery Report

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

Volume 78 ★ September 2021

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



Help the Coalition Feed Struggling Disabled Veterans This Fall!

“The Coalition . . . helped me get through a difficult time in my life. Receiving the assistance made me feel special and appreciated for my service.”

— PFC Jessica K. (U.S. Army, Ret.)

”

This month we mark a sobering anniversary – one that is particularly meaningful to the Coalition and friends of our disabled War on Terror veterans: the 20th anniversary of Patriot Day (September 11, 2001).

In an address to the nation just hours after the terrorist attacks that killed so many Americans, President George W. Bush said: “A great people has been moved to defend a great nation . . . None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.”

Today the Coalition remains dedicated to providing support, care, and emergency

financial aid to the “great people” of our military who sacrificed so much doing just that. Whether they are unable to work due to wartime injuries, or they have fallen behind on bills due to the on-going pandemic, you and I can make a real difference in these heroes’ lives – just as you already did for the veterans featured in your donor-exclusive Road to Recovery Report.

So, I’m counting on you to help make sure we don’t have to turn away even one severely disabled veteran battling to survive the long term effects of the Coronavirus crisis . . . or one who might go hungry. America’s struggling heroes continue to need your help – so thank you for reading . . . and thank you for giving generously!

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Letter from President David Walker

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Dear Friend of Our Wounded Heroes,

Within a few weeks (if it hasn't already happened at time of publication) the last U.S. military personnel will exit Afghanistan – bringing down a curtain on our prolonged 20-year commitment there. This year we also commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Lest we forget, we went into Afghanistan to root out the terrorist cells that orchestrated the attacks on our country.

Unfortunately, there is no celebration. The grim reality is that the terrorists – the Taliban, al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other assorted groups – are still very much at work, wreaking death and havoc around the world. A reasonable person can only wonder: How long can this go on? **This is war without end – something new in our history.** Previous generations of Americans fought bloody wars, but they tended to be short, at least compared to what we're dealing with today.

The hard truth is that our war against radical Islamic fanatics is by no means winding down; it is expanding. The 80 nations participating in the war against terrorism include 40 military bases, 65 counterterrorism training facilities, 21 U.S. military exercises, 14 with troops actively engaged in combat and 7 where we manage air and drone strikes.

Today, these forces 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 months or years 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 meaningful employment in the private sector.

In sum, our work is not finished, not by a long shot. Last year we launched something new – a Veterans Caregivers Alliance – along with other organizations to provide support to the legions of caregivers who dedicate their lives to our wounded warriors. Most of these caregivers are spouses of wounded warriors, many bearing extraordinary burdens caring for their husbands who are unable to work, taking care of the kids, paying the bills, and otherwise keeping their families together. They need and deserve all the support they can get.

Everyone here at the Coalition is devoted to serving those who bear the burden of our freedom, and we will continue to do so for as long as we have your support. Without your support we would have to close our doors.

Our disabled troops heroically answered the call to defeat terrorism and defend freedom. Now we must take care of them. Today, as always, we – and the veterans we serve – depend on your support.

Gratefully yours,



David W. Walker
President & CEO



Salute to a Special Hero Major General John K. Singlaub: Honoring a Century of Service



On July 10, 2021, Major General John K. Singlaub, U.S. Army (Ret.), a war hero and proud American who has been a driving force behind the Coalition for 12 years, celebrated his 100th birthday.

While with the Coalition, Singlaub has helped raise \$132 million to provide emergency aid to thousands of disabled veterans and their families – but General Singlaub has been serving our great nation for his entire life! A founding member of the CIA, General Singlaub’s military career spanned 35 years. He parachuted into Nazi-occupied France during WWII to prepare French Resistance fighters for the Allied invasion, trained Chinese guerrillas for operations

against the Japanese, ran covert operations against the North Koreans and the Chinese, and commanded all U.S. Special Operations Forces in Southeast Asia.

In 1991 Singlaub published his autobiography, *Hazardous Duty: An American Soldier in the Twentieth Century*, which recounts his exploits in over four decades of unconventional warfare, espionage, covert missions, and front-line action.

We at the Coalition are so grateful for everything Major General Singlaub has done and continues to do in the service of America’s disabled War on Terror veterans. We greatly appreciate his wisdom and guidance and hope you will join us in wishing him a very happy birthday!

Salute to a Special Hero U.S. Army Veteran Trey Marshall



I am Joy Marshall, and I am a military wife *and* a military mother. I work in the Heroes Thanking Heroes program while I care for my veteran husband who was severely injured while serving in Iraq. I also have two military sons; our oldest son is active duty military, and our younger son served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

My husband Trey enlisted in the United States Army in September 2007 at age 28, and deployed to Iraq the following June. Being deployed was a high point in his life, and today he misses the camaraderie with the guys in his unit and serving alongside them. “I’d do it again in a heartbeat,” he says. I’m not as certain about that as our lives were completely changed when he was wounded in March 2009 by a mortar that hit 35-40 yards away from his Humvee. The blast threw him out of his gunner’s seat and onto the hard ground at a weird angle. With all of the heavy gear he was wearing, it was a massive fall. It twisted his neck while his body went the other direction; he ruptured some discs and was knocked unconscious for almost 10 minutes. He doesn’t remember being injured, only waking up.

Trey finished up his year-long deployment, not realizing the extent of his injuries until he was back home. Some of the challenges he has faced are short-term memory loss because of his TBI, chronic pain, PTSD, isolation, and depression, as well as severe nerve damage in his body from the blast. It’s been a learning process and a difficult journey at times, but after recently seeking care from a hospital that helps veterans who struggle with PTSD, Trey feels healthier than he’s felt in a long time and is learning how to deal with his PTSD.

VA appointments are a big part of our lives now, so the flexibility of my job in the Heroes Thanking Heroes Program has been a huge blessing for my family and me since I am not able to work outside our home with Trey’s injuries. Being involved with the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes has been a huge blessing for our family, and we have met a lot of wonderful people along the way. We have also been able to participate in some really cool activities and programs that have helped restore hope. Thank you to the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes for all you have done for my husband and me and so many wounded veterans!



2021 Annual Report: Serving America's Combat-Wounded

2020 was a monumental year of uncertainty and life-changing for everyone. **Our disabled veteran community was hit especially hard by the global pandemic** and its economic fallout. Many lost jobs and faced a daily struggle just to keep a roof over their heads.

The **calls for help from desperate disabled veterans increased by 40%** causing us to rearrange funds to try and help as many eligible applicants as possible. In fact, by trimming other services, grants, and salaries **we dispersed nearly \$100,000 more dollars in direct emergency financial aid in 2020** compared to 2019.

2020 was a crisis year, but with the steadfast support of our donors, TOGETHER we continued to fulfill our mission of serving severely disabled War on Terror veterans and their families in dire need.



After the Pandemic, Veteran's Caregiver Alliance More Critical Than Ever

The unique challenges of 2020 made more clear than ever the vital need for the Coalition's Veteran's Caregiver Alliance (VCA) – our life changing program built from the ground up "For Caregivers, By Caregivers." With restrictions on socialization and interaction many veteran caregivers faced major "Caregiver Fatigue" and the overwhelming stress of not having outside support. This virus has tested marriages and pushed many wounded service members into mental health crises.

VCA was designed to provide the support, respite, and personal connections this community so desperately needs. "Being a caregiver can be very lonely at times," said HTH representative and veteran caregiver Megan Zimmerman (pictured). "While we would never minimize the physical, psychological, and emotional struggles of our loved ones, our burdens are real, too. The VCA program ensures caregivers have a knowledgeable support system to better understand the challenges that could occur in the home front. A strong family unit ensures the veteran can thrive despite their injuries."



Whether or not their loved one's wounds are visible, spouses of veterans commit to a heroic undertaking when they move into the role of caregiver. "Caregiver Syndrome" and "Caregiver Burnout" are two conditions common in the caregiver community. Caregiver Syndrome strongly manifests exhaustion, anger, rage, or guilt resulting from unrelieved caring for a chronically ill patient. Typical symptoms of this syndrome include fatigue, insomnia, stomach complaints, and depression. Caregiver Burnout is a state of physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion that may be accompanied by a change in attitude – from positive and caring to negative and unconcerned.

The Veteran's Caregiver Alliance is a free program that meets its members where they are. Alliance representatives provide direct services – including mentoring support and camaraderie – as well as access to public and private services provided by like-minded Veterans Service Organizations, government agencies, and community organizations.

War on Terror Veterans and Their Families for Over 17 Years

Feeding Military Families with Feed the Children



Helping feed veterans and children near the Naval Station Great Lakes area in Illinois.

Over the past five years we have coordinated with the national nonprofit Feed the Children (FTC) to mobilize food trucks that distribute free meals to needy military families. These are local efforts taking place from California to Washington, D.C.

In 2020, we partnered with FTC and Blue Star Families for six food distribution events across the nation. A typical food truck event will provide food and urgent household supplies to 400 military families for two weeks.

Thousands of disabled veterans are struggling to put food on the table since the pandemic started. The need is still great; we would do this every week if we had the money.

Your generosity is needed now more than ever before. Your giving will help us reach our goal to provide food boxes to 3,600 veterans families this year!

NEW PROGRAM – America’s Little Helpers

On July 30th, America’s Little Helpers was launched with a singular purpose: Provide the children of wounded and disabled veterans with resources, support, and outlets to help them cope and thrive while living with the effects of their parent’s mental and physical war wounds.

Far too often, children of severely injured War on Terror parents grow up very quickly and make sacrifices because of the help they must provide their mom or dad, and around their home.

The goal is to provide these brave kids with outlets such as in-person and online educational support, virtual and in-person therapy, day camps and multi-day retreats, as well as music and recreational events.

The strongest form of support for these kids is creating opportunities for them to bond and form relationships with other children of disabled veterans.



Coalition Receives Financial Transparency Award

We are proud to say the Coalition was awarded the 2021 Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar for financial transparency!

Donors to the Coalition can give with confidence knowing we follow the strict guidelines of the BBB and have received awards from GuideStar, GreatNonProfits, and qualify for the CFC year after year.



Choose to Leave Your Legacy As a Veteran Supporter Today!

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

— President Abraham Lincoln

Your past generosity has proven your commitment to helping America’s disabled War on Terror veterans. And by leaving a charitable bequest to the Coalition, you are continuing that legacy of patriotism and support long after you’re gone, by helping care for those who bore the battle to defend our country, our freedom, and our families.

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 (703) 348-9914.** 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.



Help More Veterans by Becoming a Coalition Partner for Heroes!

Make your gift help more disabled veterans by becoming a Coalition Partner for Heroes today. Our monthly giving program is an easy way you can make an even bigger difference for struggling disabled veterans – and it 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 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.



By the Numbers: Your Generosity in Action!

Emergency financial aid is at the heart of our mission to serve our struggling disabled War on Terror veterans – and these days, they need that help more than ever. 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.

Here’s how our emergency financial aid process works. First, 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 we rush the approved aid amount requested directly to the utility company, mortgage firm, or whoever is owed money by the disabled hero.

As you can see from the list of names below – just a handful of the heroes we’ve recently helped together – we’re helping heroes from all branches of service, from coast to coast, with needs as different as the men and women asking for help – especially during this time of national crisis. The needs are great; the process is simple; the gratitude is abundant; and your generosity is changing lives.



Veteran Army Corporal Darius U. from Baltimore, Maryland, suffers from PTSD after serving in Afghanistan. He desperately needed \$675.00 to pay his rent.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$675.00

Veteran Army Staff Sergeant Roberto M. from Rogers, Arkansas, severely injured his leg while serving in the War on Terror. He asked us for \$783.71 to pay his electric and water bills and keep the utilities from being disconnected in his home.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$783.71

Retired Navy Petty Officer First Class David G. from Longwood, Florida, suffers from PTSD after serving in the War on Terror. David asked for \$950.00 to make his car payment and avoid repossession.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$950.00

Navy Lieutenant Commander James M. from Ypsilanti, Michigan, was honorably discharged after serving in Afghanistan. He desperately needed \$1,290.17 to make his mortgage payment.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,290.17

Army Private Adey F. from Locust Grove, Georgia, was disabled after suffering a traumatic brain injury (TBI) while serving in Iraq. He asked for assistance paying \$1,786.98 for his mortgage and utilities (including water, electricity, and gas).

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$1,786.98

Medically discharged after serving in the Air Force, Staff Sergeant Ryan C. from Denver, Colorado, suffers from PTSD following his deployment to Iraq. He desperately needed \$2,101.92 for his rent and electric bill.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$2,101.92

Corporal Lazarus S. from Canal Winchester, Ohio, was discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps after injuries during his time serving in Afghanistan left him severely scarred. Lazarus urgently needed \$2,738.00 to pay his rent and avoid eviction.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$2,738.00

Corporal Eric M. from South Portland, Maine, suffered a severe injury to his leg while serving in Iraq. He desperately needed \$5,015.89 to pay his mortgage and electric bill.

★ Emergency financial aid from Coalition donors:
\$5,015.89

If you or a loved one need assistance, please email us at info@saluteheroes.org. If you are facing eviction, a shut-off of utility services, or an emergency need due to a natural disaster, please call our emergency hotline at (703) 291-4605 and choose option 110 to speak with a Case Manager.



These Heroes Thank You for Your Generous Gift

It's difficult to put into words the difference emergency financial aid – received not a moment too late – can make to a desperate disabled veteran who's lost all hope. For the disabled War on Terror veterans struggling to make ends meet, your generous gift can make all the difference in the world – and the proof is in the heartfelt messages of gratitude we received after helping these heroes on your behalf.

“I want to express my gratitude to all the donors. **When I was in need, the family and donors of Coalition step in and provide this assistance. It is great to know that even though I took the uniform off, [the Coalition] is there to help service members like myself get back on our feet.** I needed your help [to] enable me to avoid collections agency and to pay my bills.”
— SGT Jimmie N. (USMC, Ret.)

“I was injured in 2013 while serving in Afghanistan as a gunner. I was blown up a couple times by roadside bombs and experienced a few other attacks. My family and I benefited from the emergency aid in a major way. **My mortgage loan was paid for two months. Words cannot describe how much of a help that was for my family and I.** I cannot thank you enough. It was a major blessing. It possibly saved my family and I from possibly losing my home.”
— SGT Moses L. (U.S. Army, Ret.)

“Since losing my job I have been forced to make prioritized decisions with finances to provide for my family’s basic needs. **I want each of you [the donors] to know that your compassion and generosity have given my family and I an opportunity towards a return to normalcy.**”
— Major Joshua W. (USMC, Ret.)

“I was injured in 2006 in Iraq. I have not been able to work due to injuries . . . my wife [is] not able to work either so she could watch the children. Thank you Salute Heroes for paying our past due bills allowing us to buy necessities for our family. **Thank you to the donors . . . if not for entities such as yourselves, families like ours would not have a place to turn to** in the most dire of needing times.”
— Tara C. (wife of a disabled veteran)

“**Thank you for your generosity and kindness. It really meant the world to me.** My injuries affect me on a daily basis. My movement is limited due to being in pain. The Coalition . . . emergency aid helped me pay all my bills for the month and paid for my USAA car and renter’s insurance for the rest of the year.”
— PFC Jessica K.

