



PRESS RELEASE

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Coalition to Salute America's Heroes Names Rob Jones to Board of Directors

Double-amputee U.S. Marine Corps Veteran to bring unique experiences and perspective to new leadership role with leading not-for-profit organization

LEESBURG, Va. (March 6, 2023) – [Sgt. Rob Jones, USMC \(Ret.\)](#) has faced down challenges unlike any other, both during his decorated career as a proud U.S. Marine and in his civilian life as a Paralympian, cross-country cyclist and ultimate marathon man.

The [Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#) announced today that it has enlisted Jones as the newest member of its Board of Directors, where he will bring his unique perspective to the challenges facing today's combat-wounded Veterans.

"I can think of no better person than Rob to help guide our mission through this constantly changing environment," said David Walker, President & CEO of the Coalition, a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the lives of severely wounded Veterans of the global War on Terror. "As combat-wounded Veterans recover and move forward in their post-military lives, their needs change. Rob understands this better than most. He will be a credit to our board and his peers as we evolve as an organization."

Rob Jones is a double-amputee OIF OEF Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. A native of Northern Virginia, he graduated from Virginia Tech in 2007 with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, plus minors in astronomy and geology. He joined the Marine reserves in college, and later joined B Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, as a combat engineer. In 2008, he deployed to Iraq with the role of finding buried caches of weapons. His second deployment was to Afghanistan in 2010, where he was tasked with finding improvised explosive devices. On July 22, 2010, Jones stepped on an IED, which resulted in double above-knee amputations of his legs and other injuries.

After retiring in 2011, Jones began training for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, and along with his rowing partner, earned a Bronze Medal in the double sculls event. Two years later – having adopted the personal motto "Survive. Recover. Live." – he decided to push himself toward another amazing goal: To become the first and only double amputee to ride a normal bicycle across America – from Maine to San Diego, over six months and 5,181 miles, including a polar vortex – while raising \$125,000 for the Coalition and two other charities.

As if that wasn't remarkable enough, on October 12, 2017, Jones embarked on a truly spectacular personal challenge: 31 marathons in 31 days in 31 different cities, beginning in London, spanning the United States – with a detour through Canada – and finishing at the steps

of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, on Veterans Day. His incredible, 812.2-mile journey – on two prosthetic legs! – raised another \$225,000 for Veterans charities.

Today, Rob and his wife, Pam, reside in Middleburg, Va., and are proud parents to their young son. Rob now works as a professional speaker.

“I am incredibly proud and honored to join the Coalition’s board, and to work alongside David and his team, as well as the other distinguished directors,” said Jones. “I’ve served as an ambassador for the Coalition for many years, so I am intimately familiar with the organization and its amazing work – which I learned firsthand during my recovery at the National Naval Medical Center.”

Other members of the Coalition's Board of Directors are Matthew Cary, U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.); Bruce Kelly, U.S. Navy (Ret.); Chief Master Sergeant Stephen Page, U.S. Air Force (Ret.); David Wetherell, U.S. Army (Ret.); Courtney L. Jacobs, U.S. Air Force (Ret.); Cathy Sipocz; Dr. Tom Sircher; and Mr. Walker.

For more about Rob’s amazing life, visit robjonesjourney.com. Media-approved photos are available [here](#).

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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