



2022

**SERVING AMERICA'S COMBAT-WOUNDED VETERANS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR OVER 18 YEARS**





Dear Coalition friends,

It's me again, letting you know we are still hard at work pursuing our solemn mission. You are one of a relative handful of people who care deeply about veterans and always find a way to help us out, especially when times are tough. Like today. I know you have financial pressures, like all of us. But somehow we manage to keep going, day in and day out.

It is an unfortunate fact that in uncertain economic times like these, many people cut back on their charitable giving. It isn't that they stop caring, but it is the easiest (or at least the simplest) place in your personal budget to make adjustments. You can't cut back on the rent or medical care, utilities or food. We are well aware of this fact, and it makes us especially appreciative of good friends like you who keep digging deep to keep us going.

And so - we keep going. Last year, we delivered free food to more than 4,000 families at military bases around the country. It is a sad commentary in our nation that military families often don't receive sufficient nourishment, but that's the harsh reality. We also had more requests for emergency financial aid in 2022 than ever before. So with sheer determination we launched our new Little Helpers Program - (yes, we launched another new program) - to reach kids of disabled veterans.

It is important for you to know that we - unlike the government - find ways to adjust to reduced budgets without cutting our services. We do some trimming here and there, but our services continue. These people depend on us and we love and serve them without reservation.

You can further rest assured that we continue to receive high ratings from groups like the Better Business Bureau and the Combined Federal Campaign because of our transparency and ability to keep overhead costs to a minimum. The BBB ranks us among the Top 27 veterans aid groups in the country. We have very little administrative overhead. We make certain that the lion's share of our support - including yours - finds its way directly to wounded veterans and their families.

I wish I could assure you that better times are just over the horizon, but I cannot claim such certainty. Nor can anyone else. The overall economy seems healthy enough, at least in terms of job creation, but the Federal Reserve, wary of inflation, keeps tightening the screws. And Congress is now looking for significant budget cuts as part of the debt-ceiling negotiations - and military spending is one of the primary targets.

I know you have your own stresses and challenges and that your support for us does not come easily. But make no mistake - you are the pivotal source of our strength and resourcefulness. Without you, we could not continue our important work. You'll never know how much we - and the combat-wounded veterans we serve - appreciate you. So thank you, once again, for all you do, and please feel free to contact us with any concerns, questions or suggestions you may have.



David W. Walker  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Coalition to Salute America's Heroes



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (\* INDEPENDENT VOTING MEMBER)

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**COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES**  
552 FORT EVANS ROAD SUITE 300 LEESBURG, VA 20176

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





## YEAR IN REVIEW

To say 2022 was “tough” is an understatement. Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's) and national nonprofits just like ours were hit especially hard by the economy and inflation - because our donors were hit hard.

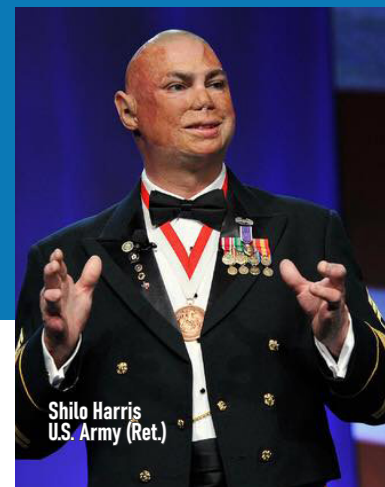
But our dedicated group trimmed, tightened and unfortunately even cut programs to keep us all on track. Our leadership was hyper focused on budgets and cutting costs and every penny had a purpose. As a result, we still are the national leader of providing emergency aid to post 9/11 combat-wounded veterans and their families and our goal is to remain just that.

The need is there, and calls and emails keep coming in from disabled veterans in desperate need of assistance. Many VSO's across the nation have been forced to cut and even eliminate programs that provided funds, advocacy, mental health and family support. The funds just aren't coming in. We know our supporters haven't stopped caring, but their ability to give has been challenged.

The number of requests for Emergency Financial Aid assistance went up 40% in 2022 vs. 2021. Even with reduced funds, we continue to help wounded veterans avoid evictions, foreclosures, utility shutoffs, car repossessions, and keep



Donny Daughenbaugh  
USMC (Ret.)



Shilo Harris  
U.S. Army (Ret.)

food on the table. In 2022, we fulfilled 274 requests from wounded veterans providing \$427,000 in direct financial assistance.

Our talented staff - comprised of 75% veterans or spouse/caregiver of a disabled veteran - continue to expanded our mission for wounded vets far beyond direct financial aid.

Our Advocacy Program offers vets long term support by identifying and connecting them with other resources they were unaware of to help them meet their needs. Through the Advocacy Program, the Coalition was able to provide 695 veterans and their families with assistance over the past year, with over \$400,000 in funds from other sources.





“I was injured in 2007 by a roadside bomb... Even though its been a long time since then, the Coalition continues to inspire me and continues to meet the mission to help make sure that our veterans aren’t falling through the cracks. Even now post Covid is another era of emergency for many of our wounded men and women.”

**SSG Shilo Harris**  
U.S. Army (Ret.)



LEARN MORE ➔  SCAN ME



Mary J. Herrera  
U.S. Army (Ret.)



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

Our Salute Heroes Family Network is comprised of three core programs to provide much needed additional support for not just the disabled veteran but the entire family.

Our innovative Veteran's Circle Network (VC) has over 2,800 verified members and we are growing every day. The dedicated VC team connects and follows up directly with disabled veterans. By creating a bond and staying in touch we are able to provide advocacy and support before a financial disaster or mental health crisis occurs.

The Veteran's Caregiver Alliance is dedicated to assisting the caregivers with a mentor to identify and reduce caregiver fatigue and to provide emotional support, as well as the ability to connect with other caregivers and access a network of resources as needed.

Our newest endeavor is solely focused on the children of injured service members. America's Little Helpers connects children Ages 3-24 with resources, support, and outlets to help them cope and thrive while living with the effects of their parents mental and physical war wounds.

# HEROES FREEDOM RETREAT 2022

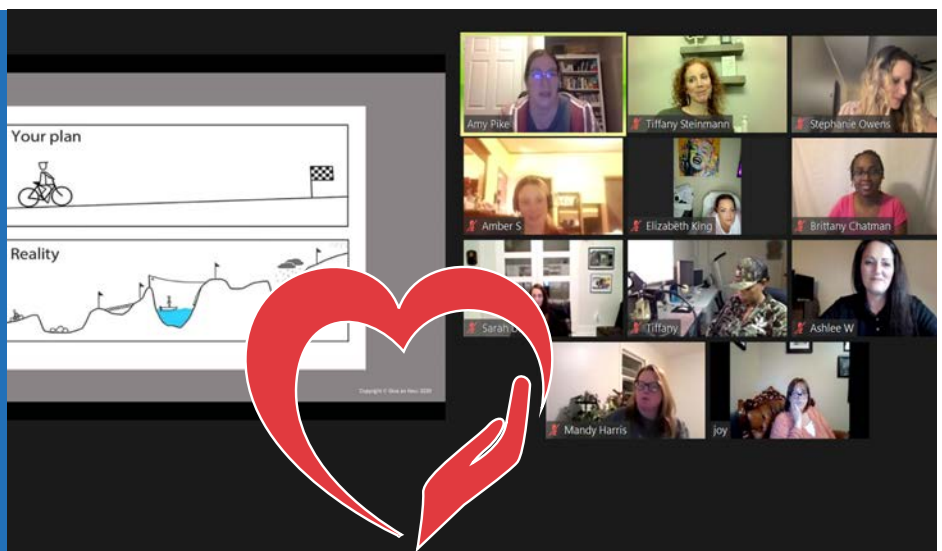
We hosted our annual Heroes Freedom Marriage Retreat in June of 2022. We gathered 6 military couples for an in-person multi-day relationship enrichment retreat in historic Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. We

were again joined by Dr. Johnny Parker and his wife as facilitators. The mission is to combat the divorce rate and make more military marriages "Veteran Strong," through workshops and bonding experiences.



## VETERAN'S CAREGIVER ALLIANCE 2022 VIRTUAL EVENT

"The interactions of our VCA members always blow me away and inspire me to the fullest extent. Our nation's heroic caregivers face ongoing battles every single day but their resilience is unmatched! We all learned from each other and I am so grateful for this supportive and connected community we call the Veteran's Caregiver Alliance." - Ashlee Williams, Caregiver and Coalition Director of Marketing







# OVER

# 75%

Over 75% of our staff are veterans or their caregiver. This is due in part to our very successful internal employment program - Heroes Thanking Heroes (HTH). Our dedicated members of HTH conduct thank you calls to connect directly with our donors to share personal messages of thanks. More than 4 million calls have been completed since inception.

*"What I like most about working in the HTH program is the interaction with co-workers who remind me I'm not alone on the challenging road of this care giving journey. It's easy to get isolated and bogged down with the demands that come with being a caregiver so I appreciate the connection with others who can relate." - Elana B.*

*"Ever since the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes invited me and my family to attend the 2014 Road to Recovery Conference... I've been amazed how much they love my fellow American military Veterans and today I am privileged that they have allowed me to be a small part of this organization." - Natanael Cruz HTH Representative ➔*



Nate is a disabled U.S. Army Guard veteran who was severely injured during his deployment. He suffers from a traumatic brain injury, PTSD and other war wounds.



The Coalition is so thankful to have veterans like Nate in our Heroes Thanking Heroes program.

*"One of my favorite things about HTH is when our supporters answer our calls and I get to chat with them briefly. I enjoy hearing about their reasons for supporting the Coalition, their families, their experience, and being able to thank them for their support." - Alissa F.*



Coalition was Awarded as the Top #5 Best Nonprofits to Work for in 2022



Coalition Received the Coveted Hire Vets GOLD Award in 2022

# IN THE COMMUNITY

With Covid-19 restrictions lifted, the Coalition team was excited to get back out in the community across the nation. Coalition staff, board members, ambassadors and supporters continued to provide support and fulfill the needs of our nations' combat-wounded veterans. Coalition programs are designed to help not just our disabled veterans but also their caregivers, spouses and children. Our work is truly unique because of the people we serve and connections we make with donors and supporters who share their time and resources. We are so thankful for the opportunity and support to continue to serve our veteran community.



## IN THE NEWS

**March 2022** - The Coalition was awarded an \$85,000 grant at the 2022 North American Prospect Expo (NAPE) Summit to help fund its recently launched "America's Little Helpers" program. "What an honor to be among the recipients of the NAPE annual charity awards program," said David Walker, President & CEO of the Coalition. "Our entire team is greatly appreciative of this distinction. We are a small charity and this contribution means a great deal to us. We take great pride in operating efficiently, and that the lion's share of contributions we receive goes directly to wounded veterans."

**May 2022** - Washington ABC7 — Saluting our Military Heroes  
Past and Present we want to focus on issues veterans are facing and a resource they may not know is available.





## America's Little Helpers



*"I love ALH because we do fun things together. My favorite was when we made cupcakes and slime." - Avery B. age 7*

*"My name is Annabel and I'm 14 years old. I really appreciate all of the fun activities America's Little Helpers has given me. I enjoy connecting with my mom, who is a disabled veteran. It gives us a break from everything and time to spend together. Thank you so much for including me in your events!"  
-Anabel R. age 14*

# COPE ADJUST ASPIRE

America's Little Helpers mission is to provide an inclusive program for children of post 9/11 wounded veterans. By addressing the unique needs of these young people, we aim to boost strength and resiliency in our nation's future leaders through peer enrichment, parent support and partnering with like-minded organizations.

A recent study found that families built around wounded veterans who require attentive

care face challenges that can fall heavily on children. Caregiving children are more likely to experience isolation; have increased feelings of stigmatization; have difficulties expressing emotion and trouble learning in school; and they also have more health problems such as stress, burnout and fatigue.

## ALH BENEFITS:

### ★ WELCOME PACKET:

**WITH ALH SWAG**

### ★ MONTHLY VIRTUAL EVENTS:

**ONLINE MEET-UPS WITH PEERS**

### ★ NEWSLETTER: WRITINGS BY

**MEMBERS, RESOURCES,**

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

# 2.3 MILLION

CHILDREN UNDER 18  
LIVE IN A HOME WITH A  
DISABLED VETERAN





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

*Success is a journey not a destination.*

## REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Cash Contributions	\$ 4,707,265
Gifts in Kind	\$ 9,055,516
Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$ (337,816)
Realized Loss on Investments	\$ (67,134)
Dividend and Interest Income	\$ 44,827
Other Income	\$ 243,339
<b>Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support</b>	<b>\$ 13,645,997</b>

## EXPENSES:

Total Program Services	\$ 12,578,004
Fundraising	\$ 1,710,553
Management and General	\$ 873,731
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,162,288</b>

The Coalition 2022 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)

## NATIONAL FOOD TRUCKS

**4,000+** Military Families Fed

We are proud to report that 2022 was an outstanding record year for our national food truck program. We ended the year with 10 successful food truck events that provided food, hygiene and household supplies to over 4,000 military families in need. Food insecurity is a national issue and no one is immune to the high cost of goods. Many of our retired and even active service members are struggling to keep food on the table. Our partnerships with Feed the Children (FTC) and Blue Star Families are stronger than ever and we will remain focused on combating the immediate needs of our disabled veterans.



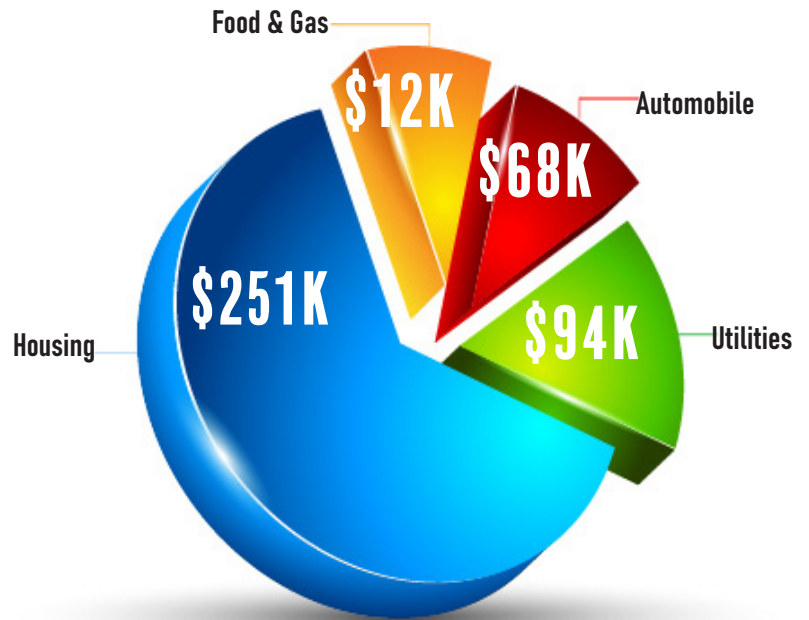


# 2022 YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

## EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

For over 18 years we have helped 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, unable to work due to injuries or have lost income because their spouse/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 & Rent
- ★ Food & Necessities
- ★ Car Payments & Insurance
- ★ Home Maintenance



▲ Snapshot of Financial Aid Disbursed in 2022  
(Note: Only a partial sample)



48% OF REQUESTS FOR  
HELP ARE COMING FROM:

CALIFORNIA

TEXAS

GEORGIA

FLORIDA

In 2022, we received 2,481 applications. Each applicant was significantly behind on their bills with the majority of requests seeking assistance with housing. Veterans who are homeless or facing eviction are becoming more prevalent nationwide as a result of rising prices. At least one eviction or utility shut off is prevented each week by the Coalition.

### TOP REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE:

1. EVICTION PREVENTION
2. MENTAL HEALTH CARE
3. EMPLOYMENT
4. UTILITY ASSISTANCE
5. AUTO REPAIRS

## ADVOCACY

Our team never wants to say “no” to any veteran that contacts us for help. Our Advocacy Program works to fulfill veterans’ immediate financial needs while also offering long-term assistance even if they don’t meet our eligibility requirements. It is our duty to find the resources that will allow veterans to build a strong and stable foundation to help them flourish. We want to make sure they are not struggling in terms of their mental health, finances, or any other situation they may be facing. In 2022 695 veterans were assisted through advocacy.

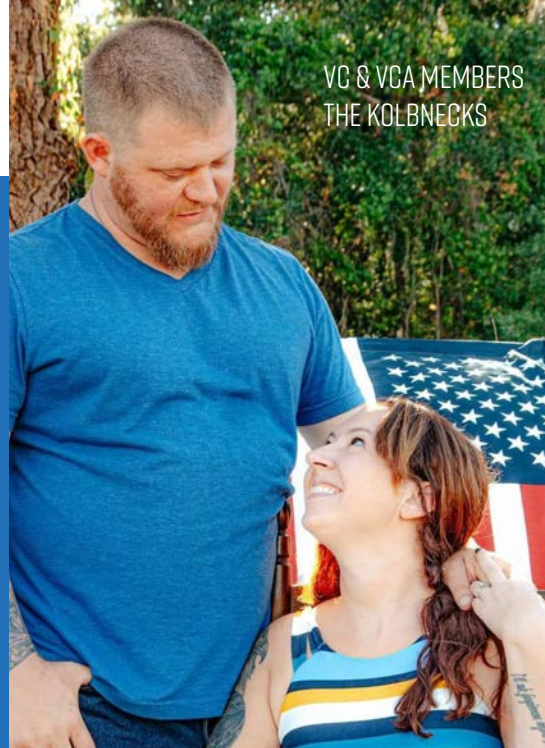
# CHANGING LIVES

VC & VCA MEMBERS  
THE KOLBNECKS

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.

*"Life took a certain turn for the worse with my family the summer of 2022. Every financial burden that we could bare was placed upon us at one time. With the Emergency Financial Aid Assistance we received during our troubling times, we were able to overcome financial defeat and possible homelessness. I can't thank the Coalition enough for the assistance provided to us when we had NO ONE to turn to. We're forever grateful! God bless you all."*

*-Combat Veteran from Georgia*



We verify all applications and process payments quickly. (For the sake of privacy, we do not share their full names.) Some examples of **EMERGENCY AID** requested and fulfilled in 2022:

- ★ **Army Specialist Christophe from Lancaster, California, did two tours in Iraq and is a single dad of two children. His service left him with a traumatic brain injury and PTSD, but when the VA reevaluated his disability rating, his payments stopped temporarily. During that time, his car was repossessed, which he needed to get his kids to school and himself to his medical appointments. EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID FROM COALITION DONORS= \$1,185.60 to recover his vehicle.**
- ★ **Lance Corporal Gabriel D. is a Marine Corps veteran from Jacksonville, Florida. Gabriel was injured by an IED blast while serving in Iraq and suffers from PTSD and arthritis. His family was struggling due to the pandemic and inflation and fell behind on their rent, while living paycheck to paycheck. Gabriel, his wife, and their three children all under the age of three were about to be evicted from their rented home. EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID FROM COALITION DONORS= \$1,600.00 to avoid an eviction.**

- ★ **Army Sergeant Syraya W. from Smithfield, North Carolina, suffers from PTSD after serving in Iraq. They desperately needed \$850.07 to pay overdue utility bills and buy food. EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID FROM COALITION DONORS= \$850.07**



◀ Families like the Tindols are so thankful for the support they have received from the Coalition Here are few more thank you messages:

*"This organization helped fast and dug me out of a deep hole. My rent went up, my electric went up, and food went up. I couldn't afford anything. I was getting behind on all my bills. They helped me get caught up. Without them I wouldn't have been able to go on. I was too depressed to deal with the amount of stress piling up."*

*- September 2022 EFA Recipient*

*"I had nowhere to turn when this organization helped me. I felt like I applied everywhere and everyone turned me down. [The Coalition] assisted me and quickly. They stopped my eviction immediately and I don't know what I would have done without them. Thank you to the donors, the case manager, and everyone that works at this establishment."*

*- August 2022 EFA Recipient*



# COALITION PROGRAMS



## VETERAN CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP

A free membership program that provides a network for America's combat-wounded troops. Qualified disabled service members receive benefits including: being eligible for holiday meal and gift checks, receiving updates of events and employment options, mental health support and the ability to communicate with other veterans in a private environment.

**2800+ Members**



## AMERICA'S LITTLE HELPERS

America's Little Helpers mission is to provide an inclusive program for children of post 9/11 wounded veterans. By addressing the unique needs of these young people, we aim to boost strength and resiliency in our nation's future leaders through peer enrichment, parent support and partnering with like-minded organizations.

**180+ Members**



## VETERANS CAREGIVER ALLIANCE

The Mission of the Veteran's Caregiver Alliance (VCA) is to improve the quality of life for the caregivers of our nation's combat-wounded post 9/11 veterans. We work with like-minded VSO's, government agencies, and community initiatives, to assure the needs of our caregivers are being met, both privately and publicly.

**300+ Members**



## HEROES THANKING HEROES

Provides essential short-term internal employment for severely wounded veterans or their spouses/caregivers with 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 385 members of the veteran community have participated in HTH since inception.



## GIFT IN KIND

Our relationship with other non-profit organizations allows us to be the key factor in facilitating the disbursement of donated goods. A typical food truck event will provide food and urgent household supplies to 400 military families for two weeks. The demand for food trucks continues due to inflation and food insecurity among our military community.



## PUBLIC AWARENESS

A major goal of our work is raising public awareness to the needs of wounded veterans. So we engage in a variety of events and assorted media appearances. We also rely on media public service announcements (PSAs) that share the stories first-hand of our combat-wounded veterans. These PSA's have been aired on Fox, Fox Business, Fox News, ABC, ION Plus, Peacock, NRB, regional sports networks and more local stations across the U.S.

## COALITION FRIENDS

TRACE ADKINS  
JASON ALEXANDER  
SCOTT BAKULA  
DESHAUNA BARBER  
ASHLEY BELL  
JACK BLACK  
DREW BRES  
LYNDA CARTER  
TONY DANZA  
BRETT FAVRE  
JEFF FOXWORTHY

KELSEY GRAMMER  
LEE GREENWOOD  
WAYNE GRETZKY  
JIMMY GUNN  
MARK HARMON  
KATHY IRELAND  
MICHAEL KELLY  
KATHARINE MCPHEE  
WILLIAM H. MACY  
JOE MANTEGNA  
BEBE NEUWIRTH

JACK NICKLAUS  
OAK RIDGE BOYS  
ROBERT PATRICK  
RICHARD PETTY  
CAL RIPKEN  
RAY ROMANO  
J.K. SIMMONS  
RICKY SKAGGS  
RUSTY WALLACE  
AND MANY MORE!

## COALITION AMBASSADORS



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RONALD R. BLANGK, D.O.  
U.S. ARMY (RET.)*

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SGT. FIRST CLASS DANA BOWMAN, U.S. ARMY (RET.)  
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SSG JD WILLIAMS, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

SPC JACK ZIMMERMAN, U.S. ARMY (RET.)  
JAMES (JAYME) HENTIG, U.S. ARMY (RET.)  
JACK SCALIA

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



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