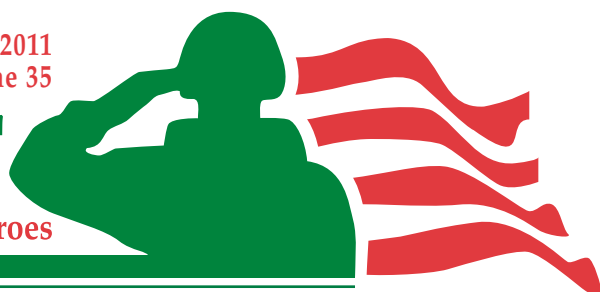


THE ROAD TO RECOVERY REPORT

September 2011
Volume 35



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

Wounded troops facing bleak Christmas Season desperately need help



Providing
Emergency Aid
to Troops Severely
Wounded in
Afghanistan or Iraq

KEY PROGRAMS:

Emergency
Financial Aid



Partner
Appreciation
Program



Road to Recovery
Conference and Tribute

With Christmas approaching, requests for emergency financial aid continue to pour in to the Coalition's office as troops severely wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq find themselves in financial crisis.

Rising food and energy prices are hitting America's financially strapped military families especially hard. In addition, the long wait for their first government disability check – which now takes more than a year, on average, to arrive – is pushing more and more of these families to the brink of financial collapse.

The good news is that for the fifth year in a row, the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes has launched a special Christmas emergency aid drive to rescue our severely wounded troops facing financial hardships, including utility cutoffs, evictions, car repossessions and a lack of warm clothes and food.

Coalition supporters can look for more information about the challenges faced by these families and how they can help by keeping a close eye on their mailbox for updates from the Coalition's spokesmen, retired Army Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub and former Army Sgt. Jorge DeLeon.

Those who participate in the Coalition's **2011 Christmas Emergency Aid Drive** will get an opportunity to help seriously injured servicemen like Army Spc. Travis F. of Pitts, Georgia, who suffered a debilitating back injury when a roadside bomb blasted him out of his vehicle while serving in Iraq.

In a letter he sent the Coalition last year, Travis said his children "have had to miss three Christmases since I returned home" because of the financial hardships following his injury. "It's been hard on the kids because they have had to settle for less so me and their mom can try to make ends meet," he says.

Fortunately, Travis discovered the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, which rushed him emergency financial aid just in time.

"If it was not for the Coalition, me, my wife, and seven kids would be homeless," Travis says. "But thanks to them we are not."

The Coalition's

Christmas emergency aid drive is urgent, says Gen. Singlaub, because the families of hundreds of other severely wounded troops are facing homelessness, hunger, the cutoff of their heat and hot water, and other disasters as the weather turns cold.

"Christmas is the season of hope," noted Singlaub. "Year after year, wounded troops who are hoping for some kind of miracle turn to the Coalition for help. And year after year, our faithful supporters answer their prayers.

"On behalf of severely wounded heroes like Travis F. and Larry Bostick, whose moving stories appear on this page, I want to express my deep appreciation this Christmas Season to every member of the Coalition's family of supporters." ■



Retired Army Spc. Larry Bostick wears an oxygen mask as a result of suffering a traumatic brain injury and a broken back while serving two tours of duty in Iraq. After getting emergency aid from the Coalition, Larry wrote, "I just thank God there are people out there who still care."

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Providing Emergency Aid to Troops Severely Wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq

Coalition to Salute America's Heroes ★ PO Box 96440 ★ Washington, DC 20090-6440 ★ www.saluteheroesproject.org

Coalition donors help brighten the lives of severely wounded troops and their families during the Christmas Season



"We will have a Christmas with our \$500 gift check. We can't wait to see our kids' smiling faces. Wish I could give them more, it's hard to make them understand."

— Retired Army Sgt. Gary Wynn, Seminole, Florida

"We were not going to have Christmas because everything was going to bills."

— Army Sfc. Kevin R., San Angelo, Texas

"The loss of income has affected my ability to take care of bills and needed things for my family's well being. And this assistance has assured that my family will have a good Christmas. God bless the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes for their help."

— Retired Army Ssg. Alvin Goodwin, Ekron, Kentucky



Sending Christmas wishes to a serviceman or woman who is wheelchair-bound is a great way to let that hero know you appreciate the sacrifice he or she made and are proud of his or her service to our great country.



Coalition donors can help a severely wounded veteran like Shane Parsons, who lost both legs to a roadside bomb in Iraq, have a Merry Christmas.



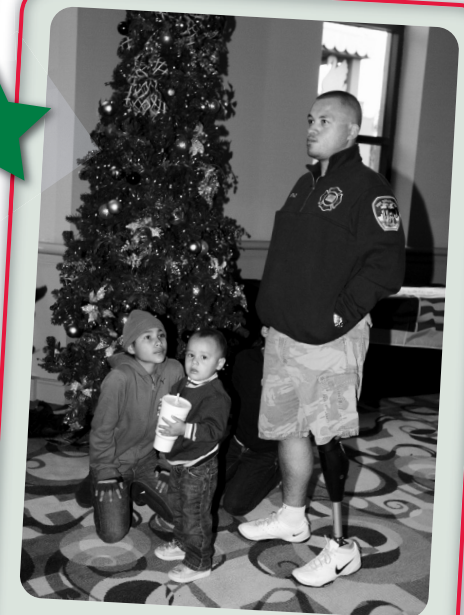
Coalition donors have made thousands of Christmas dreams come true for children whose parents have been wounded while serving our country.



During the last Christmas Season, Coalition donors provided \$50,000 in Secret Santa Christmas gift checks to severely injured servicemen and women across the country. Our wounded heroes used their \$500 to provide Christmas presents for their families and pay for food and other necessities.



Phil Bauer was severely injured when the Chinook helicopter he was riding in was shot down. Generous Coalition donors got the Bauers' heat turned back on and provided them with money for food and Christmas presents.



Many severely wounded servicemen and women feel helpless at Christmas time because they are unable to provide for their families. (And, of course, their small children don't understand why.) Thanks to Coalition friends, these brave men and women can give their toddlers a meaningful Christmas holiday season.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Thank you letters from our severely wounded troops



“I would give them a hug and say thanks so much for this. God bless.”

“Christmas came around and my wife and I just didn’t have the money to buy much at all for the kids. I had already been selling things off to keep food on the table and help my wife pay the bills. . . . The [\$500 Coalition] check was completely out of the blue and unexpected. . . . Our 9-year-old was very happy when she opened her presents!”

— ***Retired Army Sgt. Joe Nyzio, Ewing, New Jersey***

“I was not able to take care of my family, and my wife wanted a divorce. The Coalition was there to help us out. I feel so blessed someone was there to help me. I was at my breaking point and strongly feel the Coalition was an Angel in disguise.”

— ***Retired Army Sgt. Bobby Pearson, Killeen, Texas***

“My bills pile up because I have to pay out of pocket for health insurance for my family. I couldn’t keep a job due to my injuries and my pension wasn’t coming in yet, so money was very tight. The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes helped me catch up by paying all my bills for one month: rent, car payment, utilities, etc. and to top it all off, they threw in a \$500 gift card for Wal-Mart. So it lasted for grocery shopping for about two months. The help CSAH gave me got me together for a good while so I wasn’t sweating so many bills. Thanks so much!”

— ***Retired Army Sgt. Ryan Smith, Miamisburg, Ohio***

“I cannot work so my wife has to take care of me. We rely on my disability check but the holidays make it difficult. We want Christino to have Christmas

presents. I would like to thank donors for generous donations. I would give them a hug and say thanks so much for this. God bless.”

— ***Retired Marine Sgt. Felix Garcia, Palm Coast, Florida***

“I have been out of the military for less than a year. Bills were piling up close to Christmas. I received a call from the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes explaining they may be able to help. I was so glad someone was helping the men and women who were at desperate times after coming back from a place we don’t want to remember. The Coalition helped me more than I can ever say. I almost lost my Mom, lights were about to be shut off, and many other bills just kept piling up. The Coalition paid my light bill and helped with my other bills, which helped me manage my home payments. Thanks to the Coalition, I regained control of my life. Thank you.”

— ***Retired Navy PO2 Jose L. Pumarejo, Jacksonville, Florida***

“I cannot describe how thankful my family and I are through this critical time. You have been a blessing. I had to quit my job to care for my husband. We have four children and they also want to tell you, ‘Thank you!’ We also want to thank you once again for the \$500 check at our hardship time so we could have a Christmas for our family.”

— ***Wife of Marine SSgt. George P., Jacksonville, North Carolina***

Thank You and Get Well Card Program

The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes’ innovative Thank You and Get Well Card Program was created as a way for Americans to show their patriotic support firsthand to servicemen and women who have suffered serious injuries in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Tens of thousands of THANK YOU and GET WELL cards from Coalition supporters have been signed and handed out to severely wounded soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines (and other military veterans) all across the country. These cards serve as an important reminder to these men and women that the American people have not forgotten their sacrifices and truly appreciate everything they have given to defend our country.

