



Coalition to Salute America's Heroes Management Team Biographies

Daniel Vargas (E6-USAF Ret.) Director, Family Support Network



Dan began assisting our nation's wounded and disabled Iraq and Afghanistan war heroes while serving as a non-commissioned officer with the United States Air Force.

Working closely with the Coalition since 2004, Dan was instrumental in planning and coordinating special recreational and therapeutic activities for hundreds of wounded service members while they were undergoing extensive treatment and therapy at Brooke Army Medical Center and other military treatment facilities.

Additionally, he is a highly effective "hero advocate" educating the public as to the needs and challenges of the seriously wounded and disabled—while ensuring service-members are kept abreast of the ever-evolving benefits and services designed to meet their unique needs. An expert in military protocol, Dan is also responsible for communicating and coordinating Coalition efforts with key senior military and civilian team members at military and VA Hospitals.

Recently retired after 20 years with the United States Air Force, Dan continues his commitment to assist wounded heroes as the Coalition's Director of Family Support Services.

Jorge DeLeon, US Army (Ret.) Assistant Director, Family Support Network / Liaison to Brooke Army Medical Center / National Spokesman



Jorge DeLeon joined in the U.S. Army in 2001 after eight years on the police force in Puerto Rico. He deployed four times in five years; however, he wasn't injured until the last. The former infantryman deployed to Afghanistan in April 2004, with the 25th Infantry Division. After just a few weeks there, Jorge and his unit were on their way back to camp when his Humvee ran over an anti-tank mine. Having taken the full brunt of the mine, Jorge was the only one injured in the explosion. He lost his right leg.

During his recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, CSAH helped pay bills at home so that his family could be by his side. Today, he wears a computer-controlled prosthetic leg.

Jorge briefly returned to law enforcement, working for the Department of Defense as a radio operator with the police department at Fort Sam Houston.

Today, he is the Assistant Director of the Family Support Network and serves as CSAH's liaison to Brooke Army Medical Center. There he works with patients and their families, connecting them to CSAH programs that help them get through their recovery and rebuild their lives.



In addition, he is a National Spokesperson for CSAH. He sets a wonderful example for wounded troops, showing them that severe injuries like the loss of a limb does not have to prevent them from leading an athletic lifestyle. He is an avid cyclist and in 2005, set the speed record at the Los Angeles Marathon on a hand-pedaled bike.

Jorge lives in Texas with his wife and three young children.



**Cpl. B.J. Jackson, Iowa National Guard (Ret.)
Director of Events / National Spokesman**

B.J. Jackson enlisted in the Iowa National Guard 1999 and was deployed to Iraq in 2003. On August 7, 2003, his first day off in over a month, the Humvee that B.J. was driving through the city of Baghdad, hit a landmine.

After being stabilized, B.J. was sent to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX to begin treatment for severe burns and the loss of both legs below the knees.

B.J. joined CSAH in 2004 as a National Spokesman. While he now jokes that he'll probably never have a career in roofing again, he is able to inspire other wounded veterans with his belief that no matter what the circumstance may be, there are no limits to what a person can do.

In 2007, B.J. expanded his role with CSAH when he became Director of Events. In addition to his speaking commitments, he works with volunteers across the country coordinating grass roots events that raise awareness and funds for the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

Currently, B.J. lives in Iowa with his wife, Abby, and their three children.



**Cpl. Donny Daughenbaugh, USMC (Ret.)
Director of Events / National Spokesman**

Donny Daughenbaugh was deployed with the U.S. Marine Corps on October 12, 2004 and on night foot patrol when a vehicle sped past his unit, screeched to a stop and opened fire with an AK-47. He was shot in the face by the attackers, the bullet barreling through his left cheekbone. It lodged between the base of his skull, missing vital nerves by millimeters. The bullet was left in place because it was too close to his brain to remove.

Donny joined the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes in 2007 as a National Spokesperson and Director of Events. As a spokesman, he inspires audiences around the country with his infectious humor and positive attitude. As Director of Events, he helps patriotic volunteers organize and execute grass root events to raise awareness and funds for the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

Donny now lives in Iowa with his wife and their young daughter.



**Cpl. J.R. Martinez, U.S. Army (Ret.)
National Spokesman / National Spokesperson Liaison**

J.R. Martinez was born in Shreveport, LA on June 14, 1983. He enlisted in the United States Army in September 2002 and underwent Basic and Advanced Training at Fort Benning, Georgia where he gained skills as an 11-B Infantryman. After reporting to Fort Campbell in January of 2003, he was assigned to his unit 2/502 Delta Company. He was deployed to Iraq in February of that same year. After his injury in April 2003, he spent 34 months at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, undergoing approximately 32 different surgeries. After his recovery, he joined CSAH as a National Spokesman. He has since worked with CSAH to promote their financial assistance and support programs to other wounded service members and inspire the lives of others through his amazing

story of resilience, perseverance and optimism.

J.R. oversees the CSAH's national network of spokesmen, which consists of over 15 troops and their families.