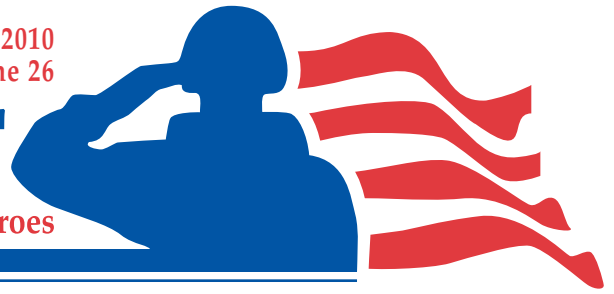


THE ROAD TO RECOVERY REPORT

May 2010
Volume 26



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

Severely wounded troops 'running out of food' desperately need your help this Memorial Day



Since the end of the Civil War, Americans have taken time at the end of May to honor the sacrifices made by fighting men and women in the armed services.

This Memorial Day, the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes is honoring that tradition with a special Memorial Day Emergency Aid Drive.

A few weeks ago Coalition supporters received an urgent letter from Major General John K. Singlaub, U.S. Army (Ret.) outlining the financial crisis facing thousands of severely wounded troops – and what the Coalition is doing to help these heroes.

"I thought the General did an outstanding job highlighting the problems faced by so many of our severely wounded troops," said Coalition General Manager Patrick Norberto. "I just hope enough Coalition supporters heed this message and send help."

The continuing economic downturn combined with the recent uptick in wounded troops returning from elevated action in Afghanistan is straining Coalition resources, Norberto pointed out.

"Right now, it looks like the Coalition will be unable to help some of the severely wounded GIs who were hoping to get aid by Memorial Day," he said.

Perhaps someone like wounded serviceman Dexter F.

Since Dexter returned from serving in Iraq, he has been in and out of VA clinics and hospitals trying to complete his rehabilitation.

However, when Dexter had his hours at work dramatically cut, he fell behind on his rent and his car was repossessed.

Losing the car meant that Dexter could no longer receive outpatient treatment for his war wounds, and that his 14-year-old son had to withdraw from a military academy that had accepted him.

With Dexter and his family facing a humiliating eviction, he contacted the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

Coalition donors rushed Dexter emergency financial aid to pay his rent while he continues to search for full-time employment.

However, Dexter still needs transportation. "We are running out of food; the phone bill needs to be paid and the lights were turned off

this week," he says.

In his Memorial Day appeal to Coalition supporters, Gen. Singlaub says, "As a result of protecting our families, their families are facing evictions, utility cutoffs, car repossessions and other catastrophes. The good news is you can make a real difference by enclosing a special tax-deductible gift to the Coalition's Memorial Day Emergency Aid Drive."

Norberto says, "I'm hopeful Coalition supporters will hear Gen. Singlaub's message and come through for our wounded heroes, just as they have in the past." ■



After an Iraqi mortar attack that left five fellow soldiers dead, Pete Herrick found himself a tetraplegic. Coalition donors responded by helping Herrick and his family with expenses and making his home in Fort White, Florida handicapped-accessible.

Providing
Emergency Aid
to Severely
Wounded Troops
and Their Families
in Crisis

KEY PROGRAMS:

Emergency
Financial Aid

Family Support
Network

Career Network

Road to Recovery
Conference & Tribute

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Providing Emergency Aid to Severely Wounded Troops and Their Families in Crisis

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By the numbers: Your generosity at work



Here's a brief sampling of severely wounded troops who have been helped by your generous donations to the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. These U.S. servicemen and women have fallen into desperate financial circumstances and need more assistance than we've been able to provide thus far, so please send a special Memorial Day donation to help them and their families if you can.

- Jerome W. of Killeen, Texas lost a limb and suffered a brain injury while serving in Iraq. He needed \$2,113.34 for groceries, overdue rent and utility payments.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$2,113.34**
- Sgt. 1st Class Robert H. of Grovetown, Georgia was facing foreclosure on his family home. He needed \$3,353 to prevent a painful eviction.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$3,353.00**
- Marine Lance Cpl. David L. of Bakersfield, California had a \$909.66 medical bill overdue when he contacted the Coalition.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$909.66**
- Cpl. Donald S. of Hephzibah, Georgia needed \$1,250 to get his vehicle back on the road.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$1,250.00**
- Bill collectors were hounding Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. of Farmington, Missouri for back rent, car and utility bills. He needed \$2,566.62 to get caught up.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$2,566.62**
- Finding himself behind on rent, auto payments and utilities, Marine Sgt. Frank T. of Carlsbad, California needed \$3,009.13 to get back on his feet.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$3,009.13**
- Army Cpl. Nicholi N. of Memphis, Tennessee returned from Iraq with a traumatic brain injury. His vehicle needed \$1,796.16 in repairs.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$1,796.16**
- Sgt. Christopher O. of Baltimore, Maryland was over \$3,000 behind in rent and utility bills when he asked the Coalition for help.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$3,008.68**
- Spc. Mildred M. of Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico suffered a brain injury while serving in Iraq and was \$1,300 behind on her rent payments.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$1,300.00**
- Army Captain Robin W. of Waynesville, Missouri needed \$2,540.42 to get caught up on back rent and utility payments.
▶ **Coalition Paid: \$2,540.42**

What better way to salute America's wounded heroes than by making a charitable bequest this Memorial Day?

"The best use of life is to invest it in something which will outlast life." – William James

You can leave a legacy of love and support for America's severely wounded troops by remembering them in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option please contact:

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Coalition to Salute America's Heroes
(914) 432-5400, ext. 108
pnorberto@saluteheroes.org

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes does not provide legal or financial advice to prospective donors. Always consult with your attorney and financial advisor before making any important decisions regarding your estate.





IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Thank you letters from our severely wounded troops



“If it weren’t for the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes my young family would be homeless.” – Bryan Ortega, San Antonio, Texas

▶ The assistance has been a blessing. Every other day something occurred that would have me and my wife struggling to make ends meet. With the weight of our financial burdens being lifted by the aid of the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes we are able to get out from underneath those woes and get back on our feet. I am very grateful for the donors who gave their time and resources to take care of the needs of others.

– *Jason E., Riverview, Florida*

▶ The assistance I received was a big help because the whole plant where I worked was shut down for 6 months, and that was a big part of my income. Thank you so much, Coalition donors.

– *Frederick Carroll, Camden, Arkansas*

▶ If it weren’t for the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes my young family would be homeless. We are waiting for my VA benefits so we have been living off basically nothing and it has been a real struggle since I am unable to work.

– *Bryan Ortega, San Antonio, Texas*

▶ As soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors serving in a time of war, we volunteer to serve and sacrifice and ask for nothing in return. As wounded warriors, that changes. Our families continue to serve and sacrifice long after we retire. Our finances suffer, our relationships are strained, the list goes on. The service the Coalition and its supporters give us is without question appreciated. I don’t know how we would make it this month. We have fallen so far behind on bills due to only making half pay after retirement that we used to. Pay gets cut, but bills stay the same. We want to thank the Coalition and their supporters from the bottom of our hearts. God Bless!

– *Jason Wordsdale, Belton, Texas*



My husband Matthew was shot in the neck by a sniper while on a combat patrol and suffered a spinal cord injury, leaving him a quadriplegic. The Coalition provided emergency financial relief within weeks of my husband’s injury. They came to our aid when we didn’t know where else to turn. This has

helped our family in so many ways.

Thank you, Coalition for your help and for helping our whole family. Keep doing what you’re doing – it’s working!! We have told so many people about the Coalition – we tell them to call with whatever they need because we know no matter what it is you can probably make it happen.

– *Tracy Keil, Parker, Colorado*

▶ My family has been struggling to make ends meet in this tough economy. My truck payment was late and we were not going to be able to buy groceries for the month. The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes assisted me by paying one of my bills. The gratitude that myself and my family have for the help you provided is hard to put into words. I thank God for each and every one of you.

– *Joshua W. Johnson*

▶ The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes is a lifesaver. I was in the process of receiving financial compensation from the VA and disability but as of right now I have nothing. They helped me out with all my current needs like mortgage, electricity, medical bills, everything. I submitted this claim to two other nonprofit organizations and I did not get anywhere. I am extremely grateful for the help and very grateful to all the Coalition donors.

– *Yenifer Martinus, Clarksville, Tennessee*





MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Coalition donors 'bought us time so we could do better'



After spending months in the hospital and another three years rehabilitating from shrapnel wounds in his left shoulder and bullet wounds in the right shoulder and forearm, Beau Links was looking forward to starting life anew with his young wife and new baby.

But he soon found the financial pressure of finishing his schooling and caring for his new family left his budget in the red most months.

"I was finishing up my degree and my wife was a stay-at-home Mom. Our monthly income (my disability check) was about half of what we were used to making," Links explained.

Links was referred to the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes by a friend.

"We needed some new furniture and other supplies for the baby, and the money just wasn't there," he remembered.

Coalition staff quickly approved Links's request for aid and sent out a \$500 Wal-Mart gift card.

"We bought what we needed for the baby, a new car seat, dresser, changing table, tons of diapers, formula and much more," he said. "That gift card allowed us to take a deep breath and bought us time to re-evaluate our budget so in the future we could do better."

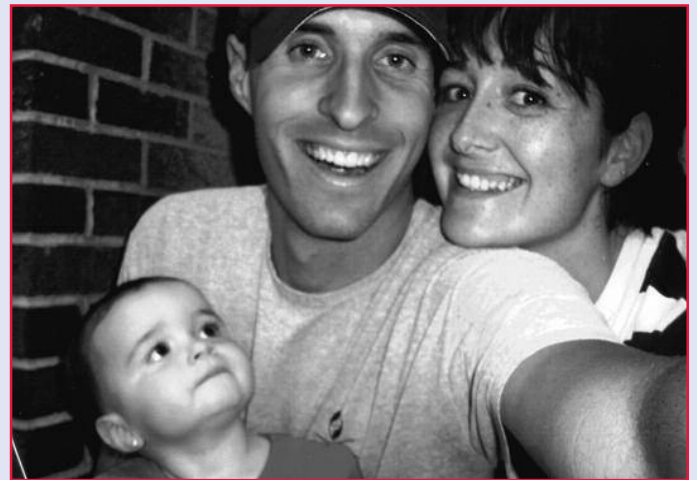
Coalition General Manager Partick Norberto said, "It's not unusual for severely wounded soldiers trying to manage the transition to civilian life to find themselves and their families in a desperate financial condition.

"Many times, all these families need is some emergency relief like making an overdue rent or mortgage payment or helping with food or clothing for a short time to get these families back on track."

Every day, Coalition staffers receive urgent requests

from severely wounded troops making one last desperate plea for someone to help them out of a financial crisis. Fortunately, Coalition donors have been there for thousands of seriously injured servicemen and women in the past. But with the continuing economic slowdown and the rising number of severely wounded troops returning from Afghanistan, it's not certain all calls for help will be answered.

As Beau Links put it, "My wife and I are trying to be smart with our money by putting away money when there's extra and limiting ourselves on what we spend on personal goods. Thank you, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. Your gift could not have been more timely and we really appreciate all the help you've given us." ■



A rough financial stretch meant injured soldier Beau Links had trouble providing all the baby formula and diapers required for his new daughter. Thanks to Coalition donors, the Links family is doing fine and is appreciative Coalition donors were there for them.

Do we have your e-mail address yet?

Receiving periodic e-mails from the Coalition is a great way to get updates on our severely wounded troops in between newsletters. When you provide the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes with your e-mail address, you'll also receive:

- ▶ Thank you notes from our severely wounded troops and their families.
- ▶ Color photos of our servicemen and women, so you can see firsthand how your donations are making a difference!
- ▶ Urgent news reports on new crises our military families may be facing.

So please fill in your e-mail address on the reply form included with this newsletter and return it in the envelope provided. Of course your address can be removed from our list anytime; all you have to do is ask.

