



Media Contact: Chip Warren (203) 645-4529

**COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES™ TO PROVIDE UP TO \$20,000 IN AID  
FOR DISABLED TROOPS AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER**

*Presentation at Washington, DC hospital to be followed by wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery*

**Washington, DC – August 12, 2010** – The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes has announced plans to contribute up to \$20,000 in emergency aid at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on August 31 to help those severely wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars with basic needs, such as food and clothing.

Cpl. Donny Daughenbaugh, USMC (ret.), national spokesman for the Coalition who lives in Houston, TX, will be traveling to the nation's capital to present the hospital with scores of pre-paid gift cards that can be distributed to recipients on an as-needed basis.

There is a significant demand for such support to enable injured servicemen and women to cover immediate costs they may be facing, particularly if their spouses have had to give up their jobs to assist with their care.

Daughenbaugh will be joined by Army Specialist Brendan Marrocco, among the only American soldiers to survive losing all four limbs, who has been a recipient of the Coalition's aid in the past. For Marrocco, the visit will mark something of a homecoming as he was hospitalized at Walter Reed after being wounded by an Iraqi roadside bomb in April 2009. Daughenbaugh was also seriously wounded in Iraq in October 2004, and later recuperated at nearby Bethesda Naval Hospital.

"From my time at Bethesda, I'm very familiar with how the physical challenges of overcoming one's injuries can often be made even more difficult by the financial pressures that many service members and their families feel during their recovery," Daughenbaugh said. "It's going to be like coming full circle to go back there and present these disabled heroes with the same kind of critical aid that was provided to my wife and me after I was wounded."

Daughenbaugh's trip is being funded in part by Bugles Across America, an Illinois-based non-profit group that coordinates thousands of volunteer buglers and trumpeters who perform Taps at the funerals of military veterans. SGM Daniel Blackman, U.S. Army Reserves (ret.), who is assistant state director for the group in Florida, will accompany Daughenbaugh and has arranged for him, on behalf of the Coalition, to have the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Sept. 1.

"Our organization has been eager to show support for The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes ever since observing



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its December 2008 Road to Recovery conference in Orlando, FL,” said John Murphy, state director of Bugles Across America in Florida. “We were extremely impressed with how the event enabled hundreds of disabled veterans and their families to not only meet and discuss their common experiences, but also obtain key information about benefits, services, counseling, insurance, healthcare, financial support, career counseling and employment opportunities.”

The conference is to be held again in Orlando this Dec. 12-16, with Marrocco scheduled to be among the attendees. Along with the awarding of emergency financial aid, the event represents one of the Coalition’s key initiatives to help severely wounded veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom rebuild their lives.

The Coalition also offers career assistance for disabled veterans transitioning from the military to the civilian workplace; provides a Family Support Network that allows them to enjoy concerts, sporting events and other outings; and conducts a therapeutic day camp for the veterans’ children at the Road to Recovery conference.

For more information on Daughenbaugh’s visit to Washington, DC, contact him at [ddaughenbaugh@saluteheroes.org](mailto:ddaughenbaugh@saluteheroes.org). For more information about The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes or Bugles Across America, visit the websites for the two organizations at [www.saluteheroes.org](http://www.saluteheroes.org) and [www.buglesacrossamerica.org](http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org), respectively.

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### **About Coalition to Salute America's Heroes**

*The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes is a leading non-profit organization dedicated to helping severely wounded troops from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The mission of the organization is to enable these servicemen and women to transition from the battlefield to the home front and to provide them and their families with the assistance needed to get their lives back on track.*

*Since it was founded in 2004, the CSAH has partnered with corporate sponsors, individual contributors and volunteers to contribute over \$22 million in aid and support services in more than 11,000 cases. One of the organization’s principal initiatives is its annual all-expenses-paid Road to Recovery Conference & Tribute, at which those disabled in the War on Terror and their families can attend seminars and job fairs, receive career counseling and evaluations, and hear inspirational success stories.*

*For more information on how the CSAH can help you or to learn how you can help, please visit the organization’s website at [www.saluteheroes.org](http://www.saluteheroes.org).*