



Air Compassion for Veterans

“A veteran – whether active duty, retired, national guard, or reserve – is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to the ‘United States of America’, for an amount of ‘up to and including my life.’ “

Ivory R. Smith, OIF/OEF Combat Veteran.

Air Compassion for Veterans (ACV) is the nation’s largest and most effective provider of free medically related air transportation for qualified wounded warriors and their adversely affected family members when no other transportation is available. Flights are to special medical treatment and counseling centers throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, ACV further provides this transportation for unique and diversified needs that are not covered by any other program. As of March 1st, 2009, ACV has provided over 8,700 flights of mercy, compassion and healing since it was formed in November 2006.

The first mission for ACV was in an air ambulance on November 20, 2006. It transported a wounded warrior’s critically injured 2 year old son from a Texas children’s hospital to one in Florida to be closer to his paternal grandparents.

ACV has maintained a simple and cost effective application process to serve America’s finest. Our one page request and qualification form cuts through the frustrations and multiple levels of paper work that most agencies demand. A patient and/or family member(s) can be in the air within a matter of hours if the situation demands urgency. Each mission is accomplished with compassion, integrity and accountability. ACV is administered by Mercy Medical Airlift which enjoys the highest efficiency rating awarded by Charity Navigator. ACV is proud to proclaim that **92%** of all donations directly support our suffering warriors and their families.

ACV will continue to forge a bridge of hope and rescue to thousands of courageous wounded warriors who have put their lives on the line for the freedom and life style we Americans are blessed with. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) injuries have reached epidemic

proportions; the need for our services will continue for many years to come. Recognizing these ongoing demands, we need to find new sources of grants, sponsorships and donations.

ACV hosts an annual awareness and fundraiser event called "Halos and Heroes" held the first weekend of October at the Virginia Beach Warbird Airport and Museum. During this event our guests enjoy a Warbird air demonstration, wonderful dinner, an Honors Ceremony for the wounded warriors our Angel Flight pilots fly down from Walter Reed Medical Center and a headliner concert.

Halos and Heroes 2008 was an especially exciting event. The Charlie Daniels Band performed a fabulous 90 minute show to top the whole event off. Everyone also enjoyed the Warbird air demonstration, delicious Bubba's BBQ dinner, the all veteran "Metro Band" and the Tidewater Pipes and Drums. During our Honors Ceremony we recognized and presented honor awards to 12 wounded warriors from Walter Reed. We also had Tuskegee Airman Ezra M. Hill Sr. sing a song recognizing the 49 WWII attending veterans featured in our Sacred Glances publication. Young John Valentine (see story below) presented us with his hard earned donations and we gave him a plaque stating he was an ACV special official representative.

What a day to celebrate the courage of our wounded warriors, veterans and their family members. As the gorgeous red and magenta washed sunset grew dim, the crowd left with their hearts filled with hope and a better understanding of how Air Compassion for Veterans fills the critical needs of thousands of our remarkable servicemen and women.

For more information go to: www.AirCompassionForVeterans.org