

# TOMMY R. FRANKS



May I ask you to join me in lending your good name as a "Friend" on the letterhead of the new "Coalition to Salute America's Heroes". This nonpartisan, nonprofit organization will enable all America to express its heartfelt thanks and provide much-needed ongoing support to our troops for their sacrifices in the War on Terror – especially the severely wounded and disabled.

As I said on my public service announcement for the Coalition, "They were there for us. Now it's our turn to be there for them." That's why organizations such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable and the National Association of Manufacturers have all joined the Coalition. Michael Douglas is among those who have cut public service spots.

Please note that nonprofit organizations which Coalition founder and volunteer president Roger Chapin has also founded and directed have generated over \$300 million in public donations, including Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV), which has distributed over 20 million arts and crafts kits free of charge to our hospitalized veterans and active duty personnel. Roger was recently recognized by President Bush at the White House, as he was by President Clinton. HHV is one of our nation's most honored veteran's organizations.

The highlight of this year's Coalition Salute will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Road to Recovery Conference & Tribute" at Disney World in Orlando this December 8-12. Invitees to this all-expense paid Conference will include 200 or more of the most severely disabled heroes of the War on Terror plus their immediate families.

With its theme of "A New Beginning," the Conference will feature leading motivational speakers – including Oracle's CEO Larry Ellison, seminars on educational, job training, career counseling and employment opportunities, private needs assessment consultations and great entertainment. And as important, attendees can share experiences, make new friendships and bond with others who have so much in common.

The whole purpose will be to help put our disabled veterans on the road to a productive and rewarding life by assisting them to better develop their own abilities to overcome their disabilities. As one severely burned Army veteran of the Iraq War put it, "The Conference is just what the doctor ordered."

Both the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense are helping to facilitate the Conference.

Note: Should you like to join Toby Keith, Gary Sinise and other notables in entertaining or welcoming our disabled heroes at the Disney event, please check the box on the enclosed Friends Consent Slip.

The Road to Recovery Conference is but the kickoff to an ongoing, broader effort to assist our severely wounded troops:

- "Homes for Wheelchair-Bound Heroes" provides nearly cost-free, disability-adapted homes to wheelchair-bound War on Terror veterans - turning dreams into reality.
- The "Family Support Network" offers special services such as our "Host a Hero's Family" to arrange private housing for families visiting wounded members recuperating in military hospitals. And our "Hero Counselor / Coach / Champions" help severely wounded veterans plan their "Road to Recovery" and support them all along the way.
- "Hire Smart...Bet on a Vet" reaches out through a network of organizations and training programs to help prepare and place qualified veterans in quality jobs.

Regrettably, too many of our physically and often psychologically traumatized War on Terror veterans are not getting all the help they need to rebuild their shattered lives and give them the best chance of enjoying a productive and fulfilling future.

You can best help by lending your good name as a "Friend" of the Coalition and thereby encourage the support of organizations and individuals all across America in this enormously important undertaking.

So please, [REDACTED], be kind enough to sign the enclosed "Friends Consent Slip" and return it in the envelope provided. In appreciation, I'll be happy to send you a signed, complimentary copy of my book, "American Soldier."

To paraphrase the words of Winston Churchill, seldom in the past half-century have so few, given so much, to safeguard so many.

As one who knows, I can tell you it's tough sending good men and women into battle. It's even tougher seeing many of them when they come home. Believe me, these brave young, severely wounded and disabled heroes who have sacrificed so much need and deserve our help. Surely we can all do our part to support them.

Many thanks for your cooperation,



General Tommy Franks  
U.S. Army (Retired)

P.S. I've enclosed copies of letters Roger has received from Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi and the Department of Defense. I thought you might like to read what they wrote.