



# ACV Advocate

*The quarterly newsletter of Air Compassion for Veterans*

## From the Desk of Chairman John Hoffmann



Dear Friends,

**T**here is **JOY** in giving.

As the Bible tells us, "It is more blessed to **give** than to receive."

- Our mission is to **give** hope and practical help to wounded veterans, like Robert, who needed travel for spinal surgery, and Molly, a soldier who required hospitalization. Both have expressed profound gratitude for ACV's help.
- Our volunteers continue to **give** their time, passion and talent in support of the ACV mission. Jenny Fields, a veteran Army nurse from Norfolk, Virginia, is one such volunteer. She, along with our editor, Suzanne Rhodes and her husband,

Wayne, attended the Ninth Annual Mayor's Breakfast to Honor Veterans in Chesapeake, Virginia. Jenny set up an ACV exhibit and gave out information to dozens of interested people.

- Our donors **give** generously to make sure we can fulfill our mission of ensuring that no veteran needing distant travel is denied access to medical or rehabilitative care.
- Our Facebook and Twitter followers **give** encouragement with their engagement in ACV's activities.

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## SOLDIER NOW HAS 'UNLIMITED HORIZENS'



*Robert's spinal surgery has made a huge difference in his ability to enjoy his family--his son, Robert, daughter, Tiffany, and his devoted wife, Deliah.*

**S**gt. Robert R. knows how pain can swallow a person's life.

In his case, his role as a husband and the father of two young children became nearly impossible to manage because of his severe combat wounds. Robert, 32, was injured multiple times while serving in Iraq between 2008-2009 and medically discharged. His wife, Deliah, became his VA-designated caregiver.

"Due to the chronic and debilitating pain that I was in from my knee and back injuries that I received while in service, I didn't have much of a future," he said.

A resident of Oroville, California, about 65 miles north of Sacramento, Robert knew he couldn't go on in his condition. After seven years of unsuccessful efforts to find medical relief, he learned about advanced treatment at the Phoenix Laser Spine Institute and was excited to think there could be hope for a better life. But the cost of airfare was prohibitive.

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## **From Chairman Hoffmann (Cont.)**

We're thankful to be able to serve in a small way those who have served us at great cost. We're thankful for our volunteers and their devotion to the ACV cause. We're thankful for our donors and new media friends for their much-needed support, both financial and social. Please continue to give in these vital ways.

Right now, **we're in special need of additional travel funds.** Lives are on the line, even as I write this, so every dollar you invest is a bridge for someone needing a service dog, counseling, surgery, or some other healing therapy. If you're an active or retired federal employee, please "Show Some Love" to our veterans by giving to Air Compassion for Veterans through the CFC. Our designation number is 99118.

We'd love for you to spread the word about our proven service to wounded veterans, so please forward this newsletter to others.

Yours for our vets and the **JOY** of giving,

*John*

John Hoffmann  
Chairman and CEO

## **Vet's New Buddy (Cont.)**

He went to the Internet and searched for nonprofits that help veterans with medical travel. There, he found Air Compassion for Veterans. The operations team arranged a free, round-trip flight in August from Sacramento to Phoenix, and Robert underwent surgery on his lower spine.

Since then, he says he still has considerable pain, but that it's "a lot more manageable now. I'm finally able to go back to work and am able to play with my kids a lot more. Since Air Compassion for Veterans was able to help me get to my surgery and appointments, my future has an unlimited horizon. I'm finally able to do more and go further than I was able to before."

*Editor's note: We asked Robert if the recent California wildfires had affected his family. He said the heavy smoke had taken a toll on his wife and children because of their severe smoke allergies. "Other than that, everything is fine with us," he said.*

ACV Advocate is published quarterly and edited by Suzanne Rhodes. Air Compassion for Veterans is located at 6806 Landor Lane, Springfield, VA 22152. Email us: [info@aircompassionforveterans.us](mailto:info@aircompassionforveterans.us). We're a 501(c)(3) charity founded in 2006 to provide veterans and their families with free, long-distance medical transportation. We receive financial support for our operations through the generous gifts of individuals, churches, civic clubs, corporations, foundations, and the Combined Federal Campaign #99118. All Contributions are tax deductible.

**AirCompassionforVeterans.us**  
**Thank You for Your Support!**



**ACV was honored to be represented at the Mayor's Breakfast to Honor Veterans in Chesapeake, VA. Left to right: Suzanne Rhodes, Wayne Rhodes, Jenny Fields.**



**Chesapeake Mayor Alan Krasnoff reaffirmed his commitment to supporting veterans, and remarked that Virginia has effectively ended veteran homelessness.**



### **GRACE NOTES**

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be there for my son. I'm so grateful. He was so encouraged that I was there. It was a profound experience for us all.*

*"In the midst of the depth of sorrow for a life that is so damaged, there also is a sense of hope—and Air Compassion is a huge reason for this new hope. Thank you from the bottom of my heart." (Tim S.)*

*"Thank you for helping me get closer on my road to recovery. I now have my new best friend. You guys are heaven sent, helping us veterans when we need it the most. You helped save my life. I was going down a dark road, and you guys reached out and touched me. My new best friend's name is Morgan. She is a two-and-a-half year-old golden retriever, and she has opened my eyes. Thank you for giving me the opportunity for a better life." (PTSD-wounded soldier)*

