

USO Wounded Warriors



The USO's mission is to lift the spirits of America's troops and military families. That hasn't changed since the organization was founded in 1941, but the challenges facing our men and women in uniform and their families have changed. Over the last decade, the widespread use of body armor as well as tremendous advances in military medicine are resulting in many more troops returning home from attacks, that in past conflicts, would have been fatal.



More than 40,000 service members have been injured in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and some estimates say more than 300,000 troops suffer from invisible wounds such as post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injuries. Our nation's wounded warriors and their families are fighting a different enemy and the USO

has made a commitment to doing all they can to sustain their hope for the happy and fulfilling future they so richly deserve. The USO's Wounded Warriors Program is a comprehensive long-term approach designed to create a continuum of care to give these warriors, their families, and caregivers the best possible

chance for better lives—from battlefield to community.

The USO realizes that sometimes the needs of our wounded warriors are immediate and can be overwhelming to their families and caregivers. The USO provides families and caregivers with USO furnished dayrooms at more

than twenty locations worldwide. These rooms provide comfortable furnishings, televisions, and gaming systems for both patients and medical staff at locations where hospitality areas do not exist.

When a soldier is wounded the entire family is affected. The USO partners with the National Military Family Association Healing Adventures Camps to bring together entire families who have a parent who is wounded, ill, or injured to participate in a four-day experience with both activities and seminars for them to "learn to play together" again after a difficult and long recovery process. These outings create family memories that will last a lifetime, providing wounded warriors and their families the opportunity to attend sporting events, concerts, and weekend retreats as a family.

Providing wounded warriors with an outlet is another way the USO supports our nation's wounded warriors. Athletics are a natural arena for them to engage and embrace their competitive spirit. Through best-in-class partnerships, the USO provides adaptive biking and kayaking outings for wounded warriors, their families, and caregivers. And at the annual Warrior Games event, hosted by the Department of Defense and the U.S. Olympic Committee, wounded warriors from all branches of service participate in friendly athletic competition.

The USO is also proud to support those who support our nation's wounded warriors. The annual USO Caregivers Conference provides caregivers the opportunity to meet



one another and hear from premier speakers on issues of depression, suicide prevention, and taking care of yourself and your kids while caring for your wounded warrior. Finally, the USO recognizes the need to provide service members with a complete array of services to support their transition to the civilian workforce—before they medically retire. USO and Hire Heroes USA Transition Workshops are two-day events hosted at Warrior Transition Units. Participants work to identify personal goals, create effective resumes, and then formulate and identify strategies to excel in job interviews. Career Opportunity Days, in collaboration with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Hire Heroes USA, are follow up



events to the workshops and provide wounded warriors and their spouses with an intimate atmosphere to engage potential employers and participate in mock interviews.



Until Every One Comes Home[®]

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www.USO.org/woundedwarriors