Healing Heroes in Afghanistan

Launching Operation Foot Soldier to support these last troops to deploy.

Healing Heroes Ministries is now ministering daily to troops on the front lines in Afghanistan with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Oregon Army National Guard, which will likely be the last to leave Afghanistan. Some 10,000 troops will remain in Afghanistan after formal combat operations and later this year.

The Guard mobilized three battalions totaling nearly 900 soldiers to Afghanistan this past summer as part of the regular cycle of rotating forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After the mobilization ceremony of June 7 at the Salem Armory Auditorium in Salem, Oregon, some 400 soldiers deployed with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry. The battalions will provide security and support for military activities in Kabul and southwestern Afghanistan.

Healing Heroes Ministries wants to encourage, honor and help them and their families while they are there and for the challenges ahead. We have launched a care package campaign, Operation Foot Soldier Support, to encourage and prepare these heroes of the Infantry Combat Team. Each care package also contains 4 gift cards for the family back home - a VONS food card, gas card, movie card, and a Target store card valued at $25 for each card. These cards will be given to enlisted soldiers who need it most.

The average cost per relief package is around $150. A gift of $50 would cover a third of a care pack, $150 helps one family and $300 covers costs of helping two families. One hundred percent of these donated funds will go directly to these families and package preparation.

As media attention moves to the latest news event, we could slowly forget the ongoing sacrifices made by our military heroes and their families. There are approximately 40,000 American service members who remain in harm’s way in Afghanistan, making sacrifices to protect us…our families… and our freedom.

The history of the 41st Brigade can be traced back to 1917, when the 41st Infantry Division was created for service in World War I primarily from National Guard units from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. The 41st Infantry Division was the longest deployed division during WWII, serving in the Pacific and has seen combat in the Iraq war in 2003 and deployed again in 2014.

Pray for Pastor Shane as he borders his family and keeps God always close as he continues to serve our military.

The 1-162 INF soldiers mobilized as part of 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Several months after 1–162 INF deployed to Iraq, 2-162 INF deployed as part of the 39th Infantry Brigade (Enhanced) (Arkansas National Guard) to Iraq. The battalion served in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq, suffering a number of casualties while conducting stabilization security missions. During the same time, personnel trained foreign soldiers in joint operations. During the same time, personnel trained foreign soldiers in joint operations.

In September, 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the brigade joined Task Force Oregon in relief and security efforts near the French Quarter in New Orleans. When Hurricane Rita wreaked havoc again on the Gulf Coast, the 41st was put in charge of the newly designated Joint Task Force Rita to assist in all disaster-related needs.

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Sailing brings New Purpose and Joy to Disabled

Healing Heroes is partnering with Sailing Fascination in Newport Beach to help improve the quality of life for our disabled heroes. Sailing Fascination was built on the principle that having a disability does not have to keep any person from enjoying sailing.

Manned by a crew of two 30-year sailing veterans, including the Captain who is handicapped himself, Sailing Fascination’s desire is to increase the quality of life and bring hope and joy into the lives of those with disabilities.

“I can teach anyone with a disability to sail. Don’t worry about a missing arm, an inability to stand or walk, or a lack of vision. In sailing, you only need the wind at your back and a spirit of the sea,” claims Tom Tolbert, Volunteer Director of Sailing Fascination.

Learning Young the Gift of Helping Others

Pastor Shane and HHM’s Field Director, TJ Yates, honored young Jay Nguyen at his school for his unique sense of service to others.

Most kids his age are concerned about their video games, music or themselves. Not so for Jay Nguyen. Talk about an entrepreneurial spirit with a gift to help others.

Jay, with a heart for our men and women in uniform, baked over 20 cakes with his aunt. He then sold the cakes to friends and family, raising $600, which he donated to Healing Heroes Ministries.

Healing Heroes honored Jay and his family at a Hepathan Lutheran school assembly in front of his peers.

COACHING TO CHANGE LIVES

Heroes: Chuck Petersen: DB, AFA 1985, OLU head football coach, Standout College Defensive Back, Coached 17 years at air force academy Named assistance coach of the year


Timothy Yates: Director of Field Operations at Healing Heroes, has toured both Iraq and Afghanistan. He received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during combat operations

Gerret Breeland: Former Seattle Seahawk, showed his Rose Bowl rings and USC

Parents & Volunteers: Special thanks!

Served: 2nd Annual Falcon Football Clinic

Our young folk are more resilient and at the same time, more sensitive than we think. They need love, support, encouragement and mentoring while a parent deploys. That is exactly what the Falcon Football Clinic achieves.

Orange Lutheran High School and Healing Heroes Ministries presented the Falcon Football Clinic for Children grades K-8 this summer.

Our team of former Falcons and Orange Lutheran staff had a blast while working with these young football players to establish friendships and mentorship relationships, build character, introduce the finer points of the game, and most importantly have fun.

The Falcon Football Clinic was led by former US Air Force Academy players and coaches and current Orange Lutheran Staff. This non-contact, skills instructional clinic was designed to give each athlete a solid foundation in the football fundamentals needed to excel at his position.

This year Orange Lutheran High Football Team is partnering with Healing Heroes ministries to support(adopt) the 2-162 infantry brigade. As a part of this the football team is playing this season for the 2-162. A coin was made depicting this partnership with one side the letter “L” and the other side the 2-162 logo.

During a special ceremony, Timothy Yates explained the meaning of a military coin. Each player was coined by him by a handshake to transfer it. Players will carry their coin through the season as a reminder of who they are playing and praying for.

Happiest Place on Earth Gets a Little Happier

The furthest thing from the mind of a Marine on deployment is thinking of getting Mickey Mouse’s autograph while slurping an ice cream cone or sundae, seeing spectacular fireworks and enjoying some of the most smile-inducing rides anywhere!

A time of being carefree is exactly what is needed when they return home.

The Happiest Place on Earth got a little happier for some Marine families when David Williams of Orange County donated 24 Disneyland day passes to Healing Heroes Ministry.

The passes, worth an estimated $2,500, were presented to soldiers and families of the 13th MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit).

This is the type of practical gift that helps families, who haven’t seen their loved ones for months, to reintegrate in a happy, carefree manner.

Disneyland is big, it’s loads of fun, and one can simply get lost in the crowd for a day. Since military life is a continual readiness for deployment, families need the one-on-one time with their loved ones.

Maned by a crew of two 30-year sailing veterans, including the Captain who is handicapped himself, Sailing Fascination’s desire is to increase the quality of life and bring hope and joy into the lives of those with disabilities.

“I can teach anyone with a disability to sail. Don’t worry about a missing arm, an inability to stand or walk, or a lack of vision. In sailing, you only need the wind at your back and a spirit of the sea,” claims Tom Tolbert, Volunteer Director of Sailing Fascination.

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