

Operation Gift Cards

For our wounded and injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda military hospitals

Web site:
www.ctveterans.org

Press Release

December 14, 2009
Contact: See below

Connecticut veterans present \$3,000 in Gift Certificates to our wounded and injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda military hospitals on behalf of three December co-sponsors



Photo: Operation Gift Cards

Left to right: Dennis Salzer, Dave Schmidtke, Maj. Larry Czajkowski Ret., Bill Brewer, Tim Huff, and Al Meadows (not shown) represented three December co-sponsors.



Photo: American Legion Post 196

Officers of Milford American Legion Post 196

Since October 2005, the Operation Gift Cards' 51 monthly visits have presented 7,730 Thank You Kits which contained \$154,600 in military department store gift certificates to our wounded troops. An additional \$82,500 in other gift certificates and special group product donations (Girl Scout cookies, corporate gift certificates etc.) have been delivered to the Soldier Family Assistance Center, the Fisher Houses, the Mologne House, the Navy Lodge, the Red Cross, and the Bethesda Casualty Affairs Office, along with tens of thousands of dollars worth items on the "wish list" (listed on the right) for both the wounded troops and their families.

On the last visit, representatives from the Marine Corps League, the American Legion and employees of Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. visited wounded soldiers and personally thanked them for their service to their country and for their sacrifice for freedom. Each patient was presented with 3 "Thank You" kits containing a custom-designed thank you card with a picture of the co-sponsor's members, a \$20 gift certificate for the military store (\$60 total in gift certificates), and, if appropriate, flyers about programs the co-sponsor has developed that may be of interest to the patients.

Thirty-nine units and individuals have co-sponsored Operation Gift Cards. The program goal is to have a different group of co-sponsors collectively purchase, each month, between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in gift certificates in order to present all visited wounded patients in Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals with at least three "Thank You" kits containing between \$60-\$120 in gift certificates.

To participate in Operation Gift Cards or to make a corporate or personal donation, contact Al Meadows (203) 929-3357 (e-mail: al.meadows@snet.net). Or, read the Operation Gift Cards summary page or the Operation Gift Cards press releases (all can be downloaded from the Web site: ctveterans.org). Operation Gift Cards will be an ongoing project; check our Web site for future events and our progress reports.

OPERATION GIFT CARDS ALSO DELIVERS ITEMS FROM:

Soldier Family Assistance Center Wish List

(For The Wounded Troops): DVD Movies, music CDs (from top 20 cd list), games for Xbox, games for playstation 2, batteries AA, AAA, C and D, portable CD players, portable DVD players, disposable cameras, electric razors, quality magazines, puzzle and crossword books, books and paperbacks, flip flops, plain black backpacks, duffle bags, boxer shorts Large & XLarge, sneakers (with Velcro) Male 8-13 Female 6-12.

Fisher House Wish List (For Families Of The Wounded):

Commissary (food purchases) and Exchange (department store) Certif-checks for families (to order-1(877) 770-4438), taxi gift certificates (Taxi Company-Barwood 1-800-831-2323), Metro transportation gift certificates, restaurant cards (in DC), phone cards greater than 60 minutes, Gift Certificates from Staples, Home Depot, Office Depot, CVS, Giant, Target and Safeway, VCR/DVD combination players, umbrellas and rain ponchos. Auto shut off irons and ironing boards. Air mattresses with pumps. Non-perishable foods and snacks, condiments, ketchup, mustard, peanut butter, coffee, tea, sugar, sweeteners, coffee creamers, cereal bars & pop tarts, single serving sizes of canned goods and convenience foods that do not require refrigeration. Things easy to take on the go to the hospital.

Consumables: toilet paper, Kleenex, laundry detergent, bleach, fabric sheets for dryer, paper towels, napkins, batteries AA, AAA, C and D, light bulbs 60 watts (energy efficient), cleaning supplies, soft scrub, sponges, toilet cleaners, dish washer detergent, liquid soap refills. Tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors and shave cream.