

NORTH CAROLINA HEROES FUND

Helping Those That Defend our Freedom

By Joyce Kohn, Kohn Associates

The North Carolina Heroes' Fund is a 501 (C) (3) charitable organization dedicated to supporting the men and women of North Carolina who support us. The Fund was created in January 2007 with the mission of aiding the military men and women specifically from N.C. or those serving at one of

the state's many military installations. It was devastatingly clear to Chairman and Founder Scott Stone that many of our men and women were



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returning from active-duty facing difficult transitions as well as financial hardships.

The Fund's support is primarily centered on hardships in which these men and women, or their families, may endure as a direct result to their service overseas. In addition to financial hardship assistance, the Fund has established an educational grant process to assist the dependents of our military men and women with the cost of continued education.

The fund has quickly grown and attracted widespread partisan support by members of N.C.'s Congressional delegation. U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R), Congressman Bob Etheridge (D-NC 2nd), Congressman Walter Jones (R- NC 3rd), Congressman Mike McIntyre (D- NC 7th), Congresswoman Sue Myrick (R-NC 9th), The Honorable Robin Hayes, Governor Jim Hunt, and Governor Jim Martin make up the Fund's advisory board. By advocating and lending their expertise and support to help those that have given so much to defend our country and freedom, they serve as the Fund's most recognized asset.

The Fund has established an educational assistance fund to aid both N.C.'s military personnel and dependents with scholarship opportunities to continue or

begin advanced educational degrees. The caliber of student that we have assisted is in the top 15 percent of their class/discipline and is striving towards course completion. Many have a parent overseas and are employed part-time to contribute to their overall educational expenses.

In addition to funding hardships associated with overseas deployment, we have recently joined forces with the North Carolina Bankers Association to assist with establishing solid financial management skills for our military personnel and their family members. Through this partnership, we will help fund recipients to receive the tools necessary to chart a solid financial future.

The N.C. Bankers Association, in conjunction with the North Carolina Heroes Fund, is committed to providing our military men and women with the necessary tools to move beyond financial hardship.

Marine Corps Cpl. Patrick Howard and his wife, JoAnna, of Ellenboro, N.C. received help from the fund. "My husband was injured in Iraq two years ago," said Ms. Howard. "He retired earlier this year. Things just got pretty tight. I contacted the fund, and they were really helpful. They made our car payments for about three months and paid our utilities. It was just a blessing."

To learn more, contribute, or sponsor The Heroes Gala in conjunction with American Airlines, slated for Saturday, August 29 in Raleigh, visit www.ncheroes.org and support those that sacrifice so much to ensure our freedom. ☞



Joyce Kohn has over 12 years of executive level experience with particular expertise in fundraising, sales, marketing and public relations, leadership development and special events. Before forming Kohn Associates, she was a member of the campaigns for Senator Elizabeth Dole and North Carolina Gubernatorial Candidate Patrick Ballantine. She has a

bachelor's of science degree from East Carolina University.