



FOR RELEASE
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"Newman's Own" Awards Totaling \$100,000 Presented to Six Military Care Initiatives

General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Recognizes Winners in Pentagon Ceremony Today

WASHINGTON, DC -- **General Martin E. Dempsey**, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, provided remarks at the 13th annual Newman's Own Award Ceremony at the Pentagon today, as awards totaling \$100,000 were presented to six non-profit organizations for their innovative programs to improve military quality of life.

The Moonlight Fund Retreat, by The Moonlight Fund, received the highest honor and a \$25,000 award. The Moonlight Fund aims to provide assistance to military in-patient burn and blast survivors and their families through a small, private retreat program, offering a stepping stone to good mental, emotional, and physical health. The profound and lasting positive impact is evident; several attendees return to volunteer, using the opportunity to give back, encourage and share their journey with others.

Newman's Own, Fisher House Foundation, and Military Times (Gannett Government Media Corporation) sponsor the competition, which seeks to reward ingenuity for programs that benefit service men and women and their families.

General Dempsey was joined by **Tom Indoe**, President and Chief Operating Officer of Newman's Own; **Ken Fisher**, Chairman and CEO of Fisher House Foundation; and **Tobias Naegele**, Editor in Chief at Military Times (Gannett Government Media Corporation), in presenting the awards.

"We have all been collaborating since 1999 with a primary mission, recognize these incredibly innovative and selfless ideas that help improve the quality of life for the military community and help make dreams possible. Newman's Own is proud to be part of this worthwhile endeavor," said Indoe.

Including this year's awards, the annual competition that began in 1999 has recognized 145 programs with awards totaling \$825,000.

A total of 164 entries were received for the 2012 program. Six judges evaluated each entry based on the organization's impact to the respective communities, creativity and innovation.

Judges for the 2012 competition were:

Mrs. Deanie Dempsey	Spouse of General Martin E. Dempsey, USA
Mrs. Mary Winnefeld	Spouse of Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN
Mrs. Mary Jo Myers	Trustee, Fisher House Foundation
Mrs. Tammy Fisher	Trustee, Fisher House Foundation
Mr. Bill Lee	Assistant to the President, Newman's Own
Mr. Mark Tilley	Director, Sales, Newman's Own

Overall Winning Entry
\$25,000 AWARD

"The Moonlight Fund Retreat"

The Moonlight Fund, Bandera, Texas

The Moonlight Fund Retreat program began in 2007, initiated at the request of burn unit caseworkers at Fort Sam Houston. In the past five years 29 retreats have been hosted. Events are kept small with an emphasis on the patients and their family's biggest needs at the time. Visited by long term burn survivors, the attendees are inspired to see others embracing life after a big burn. There is never the illusion that life will be the same, but that it can be enjoyed. Many miracles have been witnessed at the retreats: husbands and wives who have been torn apart by the accident find a quiet and peaceful place to reconnect; children, many for the first time since the accident, have the opportunity to play with their parents, and enjoy one on one time - they begin to feel like a family again. Solid friendships are formed among the attendees, and lifelong memories of campfire laughter, good stories and great food are made. For more information, contact Celia Belt (celia@moonlightfund.org).

\$15,000 AWARDS

"Wounded Warrior Program"

Our Military Kids, Inc., McLean, Virginia

Our Military Kids was founded in 2004 to support children ages 3 to 18 of National Guard and Reserve families that often become financially stretched during a deployment. The organization provides \$500 grants for activities such as sports, fine arts, and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain children while a parent is serving the United States overseas. Additionally, the program is available to children of fallen and wounded warriors of all branches of the military. To date, Our Military Kids has awarded 38,000 grants totaling more than \$15 million. For more information, contact Cecilia Kramer (cakramer@ourmilitarykids.org).

"Operation Renewed Hope Homes"

Operation Renewed Hope Foundation, Alexandria, Virginia

Operation Renewed Hope Foundation (ORHF) is a newly formed non-profit headquartered in Alexandria, VA. It is a Veteran-led organization that provides quality housing and supportive services to homeless Veterans. Since inception in December 2011, ORHF has helped numerous Veterans acquire or maintain housing through advocacy, interest free loans, and corporate leases and has provided supportive services that include employment assistance, pro-bono medical and dental care. The foundation is

working with local government, individuals, businesses and nonprofits to renovate and furnish donated and discounted properties in the DC Metro area. All efforts are geared towards the nationwide goal of preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans. For more information, contact Deborah Snyder (deborah.snyder@us.army.mil).

“Pets for Vets, Inc.”

Pets for Vets, Inc., Wilmington, North Carolina

Pets for Vets identifies veterans who could benefit from and care for a companion animal and then pairs them with shelter pets which have been rescued, rehabilitated and trained for a specific veteran; all at no cost to the veteran. Pets for Vets is addressing the needs of returning service men and women suffering from PTSD, TBI, etc., but who do not qualify for a certified service animal. As many as 20 percent of returning military veterans suffer from PTSD, while up to 5 million dogs and cats are euthanized each year. Pets for Vets provides a second chance for both returning veterans and needy shelter dogs. These animals can make excellent companions but might not have that chance, and the soldiers receive a second chance at health and happiness. The bonds of friendship formed between man and animal have the power to ease the suffering of our troops when they return from overseas. The project gives veterans and shelter dogs a new chance at life; and helping our deserving veterans as they transition back to civilian life with their new companion animal. For more information, contact Ann Black (petsforvetsinc@msn.com).

“Wounded Warrior Families in Action”

Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation, Apollo Beach, Florida

The Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation (WWIA) provides world-class outdoor sporting opportunities to our nation’s combat wounded Purple Heart recipients to assist in the healing process, welcome them home, and repay a debt of gratitude for the great sacrifices they have made. For more information, contact John McDaniel (info@wwiaf.org).

“UNCLASSIFIED: The Military Kid Art Show”

Brats Without Borders, Inc., Denver, Colorado

“UNCLASSIFIED: The Military Kid Art Show” is the first traveling museum exhibit exploring the life of a military child through art. Contemporary and cutting-edge, it’s mission is to educate and raise awareness of the Military Kid subculture and it’s life-long impact on children; engender compassion and understanding between military and civilian communities; and honor the service and sacrifices of military children. “Kids serve, too” is not just a slogan. Military children make real sacrifices for our country and “UNCLASSIFIED” gives them a real artistic voice. Pictures say so much more than words, particularly when it comes to complicated emotions. Coping strategies that work well as a mobile child can be counter-productive as a rooted adult. Not all military children are resilient; some had more to overcome than others. The best way to improve the quality of life for military children is to understand their life, and the best way to understand their life is to listen to their stories and observe their artistic creations. “UNCLASSIFIED: The Military Kid Art Show” gives military kids an opportunity to do just that and in the process, connect with their subculture, families, and communities. For more information, contact Donna Musil (info@USAbrat.org).

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