

Fallen Stars committee issues challenge to vets' groups, other organizations

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Photos



Telegram Photo/Linda Kellett

Fallen Stars Memorial Committee Treasurer Paul Scanlon and committee member Ray Lenarcic display the \$250 check the committee is donating to Operation Mend, which helps provided reconstructive surgery for service personnel severely wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Telegram

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MOHAWK, N.Y. —

In support of a program that helps servicemen and women severely wounded during their deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan, members of the Fallen Stars Memorial Committee are making a \$250 donation to Operation Mend.

As noted by Paul Scanlon, treasurer of the Fallen Stars Memorial Committee, and committee member Ray Lenarcic, Operation Mend is an extraordinary collaboration between the surgeons and staff of UCLA Medical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center, which has a state-of-the-art burn facility in San Antonio, Texas.

As noted on the Operation Mend website, <http://operationmend.ucla.edu>, philanthropist Ronald A. Katz helped launch the project, recognizing that "providing excellent care to injured soldiers need not be

limited to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Armed Services.”

Dr. Timothy Miller, a plastic surgeon and veteran, leads the surgeries.

As noted on the website, the Katz Family Foundation will fund all uncovered costs associated with the project, including lodging patients and family members at UCLA's Tiverton House.

To date, Operation Mend has made it possible for 46 men and two women to undergo reconstructive facial surgery, said Lenarcic.

Scanlon noted the donation will help cover the expenses of patients and their families during their travel to and from Los Angeles.

“With July 4 just over the horizon, consider this donation a birthday present to Uncle Sam on his 235th,” said Scanlon.

Fallen Star Memorial Committee members also issued a challenge to area church, service and community organizations to match their donation. Individual donations are also encouraged.

In order to donate, make checks payable to “The UCLA Foundation” and mail it to the attention of Scanlon at the Crowley-Barnum American Legion Post, 47 West Main St., Mohawk, N.Y. 13407. Contributions will be mailed to the project after July 4.

Lenarcic noted the project is dedicated to the memory of 20-year-old Fallen Star Spec. Devin Snyder of Cohocton, the latest of 275 men and women who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Other committee news:

• One of the Fallen Star memorial murals is in Holley, N.Y.; the other was on display at Vernon Downs at the Marine Corps League Convention in early June. Anyone interested in displaying it can contact Kelly Brown at 866-9016.

• The committee commended the efforts of the Cpl. Michael Mayne Cookie Corps, which provides baked goods, beverages and toiletries for the Lance Cpl. Harris Hospitality Room at Hancock Airfield each month. Local service clubs and auxiliaries are encouraged to support the program by contacting Brenda Petty.

• Junior and senior high school students at Little Falls, Mohawk and Frankfort schools were commended for their all-village food drives in memory of Staff Sgt. “Stash” Zawtocky, Lance Cpl. David Mills, and Staff Sgt. John LaPolla, respectively. Several thousand dollars worth of food were collected for local food pantries.

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