

Press Release From

★ Disabled & Limbless Veterans ★

supportourvets.org

Through the office of State Representative Ted Speliotis

For Immediate Release:

June 28, 2012

State House Press Contact: Carla Moran

Office of State Representative Ted Speliotis

617-722-2030

UNVEILING OF LICENSE PLATE SUPPORTING DISABLED VETERANS AT STATE HOUSE MONDAY, JULY 2ND AT NOON

On Monday, July 2nd at noon, the organization working toward a Massachusetts license plate benefitting Veterans (*Disabled and Limbless Veterans*/supportourvets.org) will unveil the design for their plate in the Memorial Hall of Flags, a special location at the State House only engaged for Veterans' events. Once 3,000 Massachusetts vehicle owners commit to purchasing the patriotic plate, the Registry of Motor Vehicles will begin producing the plates and taking additional orders.

The plates are not limited to Veterans, so all interested citizens are encouraged to reserve a plate. A special fee of \$40, in addition to regular Registry of Motor Vehicles fees, covers a contribution to *Disabled and Limbless Veterans* and the production of the plate. Details for ordering plates are online: vplates.org/order-plates.html.

The "Supporting our Veterans" License plate will allow *Disabled and Limbless Veterans* to give financial support to organizations that assist Veterans and their families. The organizations designated to receive funds are:

New England Center for Homeless Veterans (nechv.org)- NECHV provides Veterans who are homeless and at-risk of homelessness, with the tools for independent living. The Center has an array of specifically tailored programs to give homeless Veterans the tools and support to live and work in their communities.

Operation Troop Support (troopsupportusa.com)- Headquartered in Danvers, Massachusetts, OTS serves men and women in uniform by sending care packages and gifts to deployed troops, supplying military hospitals with comfort items, coordinating a regional military family support group program and generating awareness of the sacrifices and needs of soldiers and their families.

Fisher House (Boston) (www.fisherhouseboston.org)- Fisher House Boston is located in West Roxbury (VA Boston Healthcare System) and provides a "home away from home" for military families to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury. "A family's love is good medicine."

Mike McNulty of Norwood, the Founder and CEO of *Disabled and Limbless Veterans* is a U.S. Marine Corps/Vietnam Combat Veteran who began the organization to create this plate to honor and support War Veterans. In anticipation of the press conference and the effort to get people signed up for the plate he said, "I am thankful and proud that we're at this point and now we need to cross the goal line to make this license plate program a reality."

McNulty turned to his (then) State Representative, Ted Speliotis (D-Danvers), for guidance when he began the effort exactly eight years ago. Speliotis said, "I am proud to be a part of this effort. There are so many family members and friends of soldiers who have fought overseas who want to lend their support to deployed troops and this is very concrete way to do that."



The organizations that will benefit from the proceeds of the plate expressed support and appreciation for the effort to promote the plates and raise funds benefitting Veterans:

“Operation Troop Support wholeheartedly endorses the Supporting our Veterans license plate as it becomes a very visual reminder that those brave men and women who went into harm’s way to protect our freedoms deserve our thanks,” said Lt. Col. Dick Moody, USAF (Ret.) the Founder and Director of Operation Troop Support.

“We are honored that Fisher House will be one of the beneficiaries of this effort,” said Jennifer DeLuca of Fisher House, Boston. “Our men and women in uniform, and their families, are our national treasures and this plate will help us help them.”

“The New England Center for Homeless Veterans is grateful for the resources and support from Massachusetts’ Veteran support license plates,” said Andy McCawley, President and Chief Executive Officer New England Center for Homeless Veterans. The people of the Commonwealth lead the nation in their support for those who have served our nation and these license plates can be an additional way that support is demonstrated.”

Speakers at the press conference will include:

-**Mike McNulty**: Founder and CEO of Disabled and Limbless Veterans. *A U.S. Marine Corps/Vietnam Combat Veteran.*

-**Billy Forbes**: President of Disabled and Limbless Veterans. *A Veteran himself, his son has just deployed for his 3rd Tour in Afghanistan and his daughter just finished her 1st Tour in Afghanistan.*

-**Andy McCawley**: President and Chief Executive Officer New England Center for Homeless Veterans. *Former U.S. Naval Officer and Aviator.*

-**Lt. Col. Dick Moody USAF (Ret.)**: Founder and Director of Operation Troop Support. *Twenty-three year combat Veteran, serving in the United States Air Force in Vietnam and Desert Storm.*

-**Tommy Lyons**: Board of Directors, Fisher House, Boston. Also Past Commissioner for Veterans’ Services in the City of Boston, recipient of the “Marine For Life” award and Organizer of The South Boston Vietnam Veterans Memorial which was one of the first of its kind in the nation. *Tom is a combat Veteran with a tour of duty in Vietnam with the 3rd Marine Division in 1968 – 1969; his son Todd is a Combat Veteran of the Iraq war.*

-**State Representative Ted Speliotis of Danvers.**

Also present at the press conference will be Sgt. Ryan O'Malley whose wife and the mother of their (now) two year old son, Army Staff Sgt. Aracely Gonzalez-O'Malley, passed away following a brain aneurysm while serving in Afghanistan. Sgt. O'Malley, who also served in Afghanistan, stayed at a Fisher House for nine days while his wife fought for her life.

Memorial Hall of Flags is located on the second floor of the State House and everyone is welcome to attend.

supportourvets.org

###

