Board of Directors Bingham C. Jamison, *Co-Founder* Andrew D. Hart, Jr., *Co-Founder* Leigh B. Middleditch, Jr., *Co-Founder* Eugene V. Fife Reverend Randall H. Haycock Dr. Neal F. Kassell Donald A. King, Jr. Captain James E. King, USMC E. Charles Longley Lori Shinseki Rear Admiral Paul F. Sullivan, USN (Ret)



"It Takes A Village"

For more information, please visit us at: <u>www.warriorhealingcampaign.org</u>

Dear Friend,

We are writing to enlist your support of Warrior Healing Campaign, a group that serves wounded veterans and their families from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by coordinating fundraising efforts for a remarkable organization: the Richmond Fisher House.

Our goal is to raise more than \$500,000 from concerned donors across the country. To that end, the founding members of our organization, all former military officers impassioned to care for our wounded veteran brethren, have made a (tax-deductible) lead gift of \$50,000 to honor these indomitable comrades and promote their healing.

The Richmond Fisher House provides families of wounded service members a comfortable place to stay, free of charge, while their loved-ones receive long-term treatment just across the street at the McGuire VA Medical Center – it literally becomes the families' home away from home. While the VA provides excellent medical care for our wounded troops, research shows that treatment regimens can be made more effective, evidenced by happier patients that heal more quickly and are discharged earlier, when those patients' families are residing nearby. As the adage goes: "Because a family's love is good medicine."

Built in 2008, the Richmond Fisher House is one of 64 Fisher Houses in the United States and Europe. The Richmond Fisher House Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that was endowed in 2011 to support the Richmond Fisher House and the families it hosts in perpetuity. These resources help to provide a relaxing and stress-free environment, apart from the VA hospital, where families can congregate and embrace their shared hardships – a cathartic experience. More than 700 families stay at the Richmond Fisher House each year, and yet the demand for space to accommodate additional families far exceeds the existing 21-room facility. The money we donate will go toward supporting the family guests with meals, transportation, and other ammenities to make their stays as pleasant and hassle-free as possible. Importantly, thanks to de minimis overhead expenses, more than 87 cents of every dollar donated to the Richmond Fisher House Foundation will go toward its underlying mission.

In the spirit of recognizing the restorative powers of family, and to shed light on the often thankless (and unanticipated) role many military spouses assume as caregivers during their loved ones' post-war recovery, please see the attached article Bingham wrote for The Daily Beast on Veteran's Day 2013 – a tribute to his wife and other spouses like her, the "invisible veterans" of the Iraq war.

Since the attacks of September 11th, 2.6 million American men and women have selflessly volunteered to fight for their country in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. More than 50,000 of these service members returned home with physical wounds, and an estimated 20% (or roughly 500,000) suffer from the invisible wounds of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Let us honor the sacrifice of these brave warriors, who bear the scars of more than a decade of war, by donating to an organization that empowers wounded veterans, and their families, to succeed against all odds. As Abraham Lincoln said at the end of the Civil War: "With malice toward none, with charity toward all...let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to care for him who shall have borne the battle."

Andrew D. Hart, Jr.

Bingham C. Jamison, Chairman



Leigh B. Middleditch, Jr.