

[PROVIDING SUPPORT TO OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS]

Below is a Letter from a Concerned Parent to his Friends & Family after his son-in-law was seriously wounded in Iraq.

Dear Friends:

Our son-in-law was wounded last week in Iraq. Although the wound is serious, at this time it does not appear to be life or limb threatening. The Navy medical system appears to be functioning well and both the Navy and his command are taking good care of him.

He was med evac'd through Germany and returned to the U.S. over last weekend. Amazingly, he had not been back in this country for more than a few hours when the Special Operations Warrior Foundation put a check in his hands to help cover the myriad expenses that will occur in the immediate future for which there is no government reimbursement.

How the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) knew about him I don't know, and I don't care. What I do care about is that this non-profit organization stepped up to help when help was needed. Having worked in the non-profit world for eight years after retiring from the Army, I have often been critical of some charities and their use of donations, particularly those soliciting funds for medical research (especially cancer-related groups) and those that claim to serve the veteran and military communities. However, I am impressed with SOWF and the work they do to support the special operations community. Once I researched the organization I made a donation to thank them for their work.

Charity Navigator, one of the premier non-profit watchdog organizations, gives SOWF its highest rating for effective and efficient use of donations. Financial support to wounded warriors is only one of several ways SOWF helps.

I believe that as a nation we will be fighting radical Islamic jihadists for many years to come and that the special operations community will bear a great deal of the burden in this fight. People often say they want to support the troops and are looking for specific ways to do so; supporting the Special Operations Warrior Foundation says a lot about our desire to stand behind those who continue to go in harm's way on our behalf.

I'm certainly not acting as an agent or fundraiser for SOWF, I just wanted you to know about them and how they helped us.

Best regards,

H. T. Linke  
Colonel, U. S. Army (Ret)