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Wounded Warriors to Receive Segways

Segs4Vets Marks Veterans Day at the Alamo Charity Helps Restore Mobility for Injured Veterans

San Antonio, Tx. November 11, 2008 - Segs4Vets will mark Veteran's Day at the historic Alamo with a presentation of Segways, personal mobility devices, to 48 wounded warriors who lost legs or sustained serious neurological injuries during combat. The ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m.

"Veteran's Day is the time when Americans pause to remember the sacrifice of our military service members. This year Segs4Vets is honored to present Segways to our brave young warriors to help them become more independent," said Jerry Kerr, a founder of Segs4Vets. "This is our way of saying thank you for your service and expressing our deep gratitude for their sacrifice."

Most of the recipients are receiving care at Brooke Army Medical Center. The recipients come from 20 different states, Puerto Rico and Micronesia. Fifteen of the recipients are Texans. Four of the recipients are women, two are double amputees and two of the women are from Texas.

"Many of us who are disabled are alive today because of the sacrifices made by disabled American veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam," said Kerr, a quadriplegic and Segway user. Kerr became disabled after a diving accident ten years ago. "These veterans changed the world for people with disabilities. Disabled vets are responsible not only for advances in rehabilitation technology and medicine, but also for transforming the perceptions of society towards those with disabilities."

Although the Segway is not certified as a medical device by the Food and Drug Administration, it has found a loyal following among many disabled people who suffer from neurological diseases or who lost limbs or suffered spinal cord injuries. The device dramatically improves personal mobility without the need of a wheelchair.

The 45 San Antonio recipients will receive final training in the use of the Segway by Segs4Vets volunteers at an all day session Monday in the Gallery room of the San Antonio Convention Center Monday, Nov. 10. The morning session begins at 8:30; the afternoon session at 1:30 p.m.

The San Antonio recipients are among approximately 110 severely injured soldiers, Marines, airmen, Coast Guard and National Guardsmen receiving gifts of Segways this fall from Segs4Vets, a project of Disability Rights Advocates for Technology (DRAFT), an all volunteer organization certified as one of America's best charities, at three autumn presentations. The first took place in San Diego on September 27. The final presentation of 2008 will be in Washington on December 9. The ceremonies take place near the major military medical centers which treat and rehabilitate most of the wounded warriors. The fall presentations will bring the total number of Segways donated to wounded veterans to 268 in just over two years.

All recipients suffered injuries while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Most lost one or both legs to amputation and some suffer from soft tissue and neurological damage which severely limits the ability to walk. A disproportionate number were victims of IED blasts, the signature weapon of this war. More than 30,000 men and women in uniform have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since the beginning of hostilities and hundreds of the injured have lost limbs to amputation. The autumn recipients were drawn from an applicant pool of more than 300.

Segways allow these military service members to perform everyday activities beyond the physical limitations of a wheelchair. The device not only frees them from wheelchairs but keeps them standing on their new prosthetic legs for longer periods of time, allows them to preserve their energy, and dramatically increases mobility and independence. Former recipients use Segways to travel between college classes, go to work, stay on active duty and accompany their families to shopping malls, amusement parks and other outings.

Many Segs4Vets recipients have already undergone assessment and initial training on the use of the transporter at the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and Naval Medical Center San Diego, Calif., on Segways donated by Segs4vets.

Segs4Vets, created in late 2005, is run entirely by volunteers as part of Disability Rights Advocates for Technology (DRAFT), a 501c3 created by Kerr and Leonard Timm, who lost his legs in a boating accident as a teenager, and Fred Kaplan, a Los Angeles CPA who has a family member with MS. General Ralph "Ed" Eberhart USAF (Ret), former Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, helped create the project to recognize the sacrifice of all of disabled veterans from all conflicts and honor the unique contributions of disabled American veterans to people with disabilities in the United States.

DRAFT is the first and only organization to ever receive a blanket waiver from the U.S. military allowing a gift in excess to \$1,000 to severely injured active duty military force members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. DRAFT represent people with disabilities who refuse to be defined by their disability and whose passionate enthusiasm for participation in life's activities is supported by Universal Design and new and emerging technologies. The organization has been certified as one of the

best charities in America by the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence, an honor accorded fewer than 2,000 of the more than one million public charities in the United States.