



National Military Family Association, Inc.

2500 North Van Dorn St., Suite 102 • Alexandria, VA 22302-1601 • (703) 931-6632 • Fax (703) 931-4600 • www.nmfa.org

TheVoice
for Military
Families

January 9, 2007

Richard F. Blewitt
Founder & CEO
The Blewitt Foundation
23065 Tail Race Road
Aldie, VA 20105

Dear Rich,

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) is pleased to support The Blewitt Foundation in its effort to provide a creative retreat for the families of those lost and wounded military service members and their families. NMFA, a nonprofit group that has been representing military families of all services and all ranks since 1969, is widely recognized on Capitol Hill and within Department of Defense leadership circles as the leading expert on military family quality of life issues.

We have long been concerned about wounded service members and the effect that this life changing event has on the service member's family. We constantly remind those in the support arena that wounded service members have wounded families.

Due to advances in medicine and technology many wounded service members often survive their injuries, but many times with the loss of limb(s), severe brain trauma, and long lasting mental anguish. The *LA Times* recently reported that for every service member killed in Iraq, 16 others are injured. These brave men and women are typically young and many are married and have young children. Their families, including their parents, brothers and sisters, walk every step of recovery with their loved one.

NMFA applauds The Blewitt Foundation for recognizing the service and sacrifice made by the entire family. With thousands of young service members wounded in the War on Terror, NMFA believes that there is a need for programs, such as that being offered by the Foundation, to pull these families together. The Foundation's plan to provide comfort, recreation, and a time for family healing is strongly supported by the Association. Military families who are able to participate in this program should leave better prepared to deal with the changes this challenge has brought them.

We are pleased to lend our expertise to this dedicated team and join the Josephson Institute of Ethics and the University of Maryland University College to serve the military service men and women and their families who have given beyond what they were asked in service to our Nation.

Sincerely,

Tanna Schmidli
Chairman of the Board of Governors