

OUR NATION IS AT WAR. MORE THAN TWO MILLION MEN AND WOMEN HAVE SERVED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. ONE IN TEN IS UNEMPLOYED. THOUSANDS ARE HOMELESS. ONE IN THREE COULD SUFFER FROM A SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH INJURY. JOIN IAVA IN THE FIGHT TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF AMERICA'S NEWEST GENERATION OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

2009

ANNUAL REPORT



IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS *of* AMERICA





ABOUT IAVA

Founded in June 2004, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-partisan education and advocacy organization. As the first and largest Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' group in America, IAVA has over 180,000 member veterans and civilian supporters nationwide.

THE MISSION OF IAVA IS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are in their eighth and ninth years respectively. Over two million Americans have served, or are currently serving, in Iraq or Afghanistan, and tens of thousands have deployed multiple times. Through nationwide grassroots efforts, a strong presence on Capitol Hill, and innovative online outreach and community-building, IAVA provides invaluable resources to this diverse community of new veterans.

IAVA addresses the unique issues facing this generation of veterans, including mental health injuries, a stretched Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system, inadequate healthcare for female veterans and under-resourced GI Bill educational benefits. Through local events; engaging emails; petitions; social media outreach and dynamic, informative campaigns, IAVA creates meaningful and innovative ways for member veterans and civilian supporters to get involved and take action in their communities.

IAVA's critical work is made possible by support from concerned citizens like you. Thank you for your commitment to the nation's newest generation of veterans and their families.

TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT VISIT WWW.IAVA.ORG.



LETTER FROM EDWARD VICK, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Fellow IAVA Supporters,

Since I began working with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) nearly four years ago, I have been continuously in awe of the organization's achievements and its profound impact on the lives of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. When I returned home from serving in the Vietnam War in 1969, the reception I received was very different from the one IAVA is making possible for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans today. I am truly honored to chair IAVA's Board of Directors because I know what a significant difference the organization is making for our country's newest generation of veterans — and I realize how different my life would have been if IAVA had existed when I returned from the battlefield.

IAVA's accomplishments in 2009 have been nothing short of remarkable. From expanding the groundbreaking Veteran Support public service advertising (PSA) campaign with the Ad Council, to growing its veteran membership by 74 percent in just one year, to achieving landmark legislative victories in Washington, IAVA is charting a bold new course for America's newest generation of veterans and their families.

On Capitol Hill alone, IAVA's successes are far-reaching and historic. This year IAVA successfully advocated for the passage of an important and overdue reform: advanced funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. IAVA also won the fight for mandatory, face-to-face mental health screenings for every returning service member, and helped ensure that veterans receive the GI Bill education benefits they are due. IAVA testified before Congress eight times and saw progress on more than 50 percent of its legislative priorities. These achievements will have a lasting impact on all generations of veterans.

Despite this progress, there is much work to do in the months and years ahead. America has been at war for nine years, and it is taking a tremendous toll on the more than two million service members who have served, or are currently serving, in Iraq or Afghanistan. With a surge of service members returning from Iraq and troops levels increasing in Afghanistan, IAVA's work, and your support, are more critical than ever.

This is the most effective organization working to change the way our country cares for its veterans and their families. Together, we can turn the page on how America treated its veterans after Vietnam and truly show our nation's newest generation of heroes that we've got their backs.

Thank you for standing with us.

Sincerely,

Edward Vick
Vietnam War Veteran
Board Chairman
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)



LETTER FROM PAUL RIECKHOFF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your support, IAVA has grown to address the unique challenges now facing two million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Through our historic Veteran Support PSA campaign with the Ad Council, strong advocacy on Capitol Hill, and the support of our nationwide membership of over 50,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, IAVA aims to let veterans and their families know that **we've got their back.**

IAVA saw tremendous progress in 2009. Due to our combined efforts in awareness, assistance and advocacy, IAVA is easing readjustment for service members returning home from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, and increasing the number of veterans who seek treatment for combat-related mental health injuries. In its first full year, IAVA's Veteran Support public service advertising (PSA) effort has successfully connected thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with professional resources and other veterans with whom they can discuss issues they face – big and small – as they readjust to civilian life.

As a result of the campaign's visibility, IAVA has achieved solid victories on behalf of two million veterans and their families, and has built a foundation for a meaningful community. Through social media outreach on Twitter and Facebook, relevant legislative campaigns and outstanding local membership events and networking opportunities, IAVA provides opportunities for veterans to connect, share their stories and recognize that they aren't alone; IAVA has their back. From the largest ever Veterans Week and Memorial Day celebrations nationwide, to sponsoring a team at the Army Ten-Miler run, IAVA is helping Iraq and Afghanistan veterans come together to create a strong, supportive and lasting community.

Despite IAVA's achievements in 2009, there remains much to be done. Suicide among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is increasing at a tragic rate; many veterans still struggle with mental health injuries and unemployment and multiple tours continue to take a toll on military families. IAVA's member veterans are the heart of our organization, and we must continue to serve them through innovation in community-building and leadership development. As a supporter of IAVA, you have been a vital part of creating this new movement, and your continued dedication in 2010 and beyond will be critical. Thank you for your support of IAVA, and thank you for showing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans that you've got their back.

Sincerely,

Paul Rieckhoff
Iraq War Veteran
Executive Director and Founder
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)



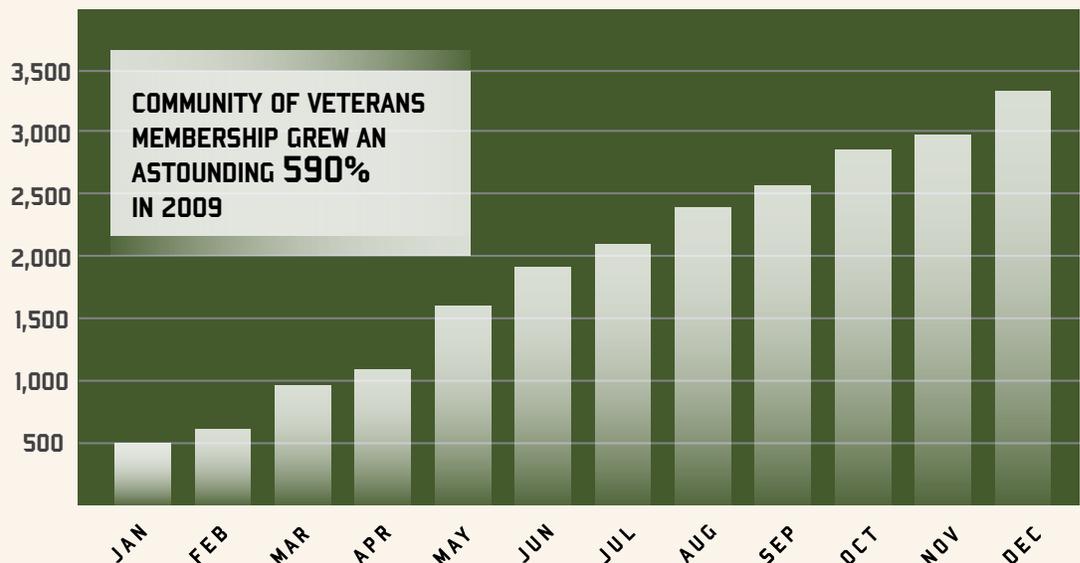
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

In an effort to ease service members' transition home, IAVA and the Advertising Council (AdCouncil.org) continue to expand the historic Veteran Support public service advertising (PSA) campaign. The campaign, a groundbreaking national outreach effort that launched on Veterans Day 2008, now features three rounds of innovative and powerful PSAs for television, radio, print, outdoor and the internet that have been seen and heard by millions of Americans. The award-winning PSAs let veterans know that there is a powerful group at IAVA.org who understand, serve and protect their fellow veterans; a group that has their back. The campaign is successfully combating the stigma attached to mental health injuries and raising awareness of combat stress among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

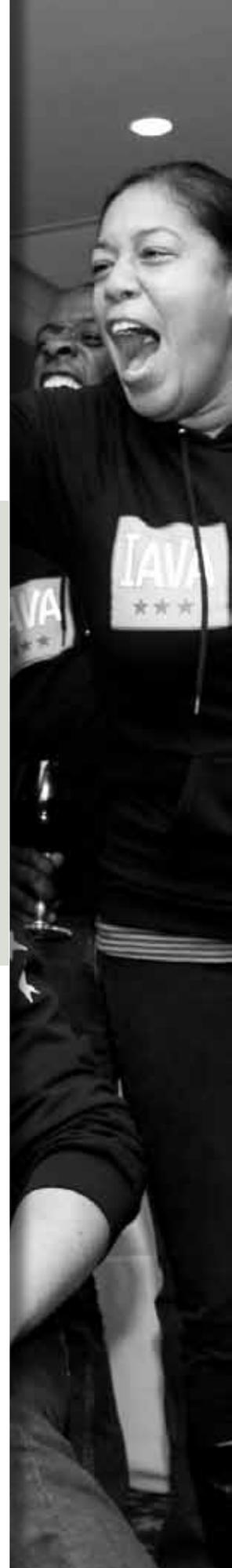
The most recent phase of the Veteran Support campaign, aimed at veterans and developed pro bono by advertising firm Saatchi & Saatchi in New York, successfully launched on Veterans Day 2009. The new PSAs direct veterans to join the social network Community of Veterans at IAVA.org, where they can connect with other Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The powerful television PSA "Camo" was filmed in Los Angeles and stars seven IAVA member veterans. In the ad, a veteran sits in a coffee shop, seemingly alone, but as he goes online on his laptop and visits IAVA.org, other veterans appear in the street, coming out of camouflage to greet him as he steps outside. "Camo" has received premium placements on Facebook, YouTube, Hulu, Spike TV, and MTV. Reuters, AOL, Fox, and MSNBC reported on the new advertisements, and when they launched on Veterans Day, IAVA.org received an incredible 10,000 visits.

Since the debut of this campaign, the PSAs have been distributed to tens of thousands of media outlets, and have received over \$70 million in donated media. High-profile news and cable networks, corporations and celebrities have stepped up to support the campaign, which has resulted in increased exposure to more Iraq and Afghanistan veterans nationwide. IAVA is eager to continue the momentum of the Veteran Support PSA campaign in the coming years to ensure that returning veterans nationwide get the support they need.

COMMUNITY OF VETERANS MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IN 2009

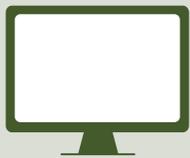


Veterans come out of camouflage to greet their fellow vet in IAVA's PSA "Camo."



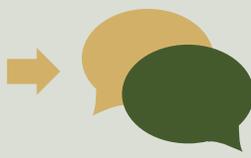
WHAT IS COMMUNITY OF VETERANS?

**PRIVATE ONLINE
COMMUNITY**



A social network comprised solely of verified Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

**SHARE CHALLENGES
& TRIUMPHS**



Offers safe space for veterans to connect and participate in discussions and forums.

**ACCESS
RESOURCES**



Provides critical information about urgent issues facing veterans.

**THOUSANDS OF
ACTIVE USERS**



The community experienced a membership growth of 590% in 2009.

INSIDE COMMUNITY OF VETERANS

IAVA's Community of Veterans, which launched on Veterans Day 2008, has become a powerful and robust network of verified Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The online community offers peer-to-peer support, critical resources and camaraderie, and has helped thousands with their transition home. Community of Veterans offers mental health resources, dynamic discussions and a group of fellow veterans that ease in feelings of isolation. To be accepted into the community, veterans are required to submit paperwork to IAVA that verifies their military service. This unique requirement creates an instant level of trust within the social network. Community of Veterans is proving to be a veritable life raft for returning veterans, and allows veterans to get connected, get active, and get informed on the issues that affect their lives the most.

"SUPPORT YOUR VET"

"Support Your Vet," the second phase of the Veteran Support campaign, launched in April 2009. These advertisements were created to empower the family and friends of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to help their loved one transition to civilian life. The emotionally impactful "Signs" television PSA directs viewers to SupportYourVet.org, a website where friends and family members can interact with one another and access conversation tips, mental health resources and information on navigating the VA. The successful launch of Support Your Vet included a press conference in Los Angeles and an open discussion featuring actor Milo Ventimiglia, performer Henry Rollins and IAVA volunteer Annette MacLeod. The launch was covered by FOX, MSNBC, NPR, the WB and dozens of local media outlets across the country.

ON THE GROUND NATIONWIDE

In hundreds of local communities across the country, IAVA provides unique opportunities for veterans to come together to make a difference, and for the general public to learn about their experiences and say “Thank You.” IAVA has grown its veteran membership over 300% in the last two years, and engages 50,000 member veterans nationwide through service, community and advocacy. Thousands of IAVA member veterans participate in the organization’s highly anticipated annual events and campaigns, including Pat’s Run, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veterans Week. Thanks to our generous partners, IAVA also sponsors film screenings, premiere concerts, and unique events exclusively for member veterans. Experiences like these foster a powerful camaraderie among IAVA member veterans, deliver critical resources and are essential for building a strong community.

VETERANS WEEK

Throughout Veterans Week in November 2009, IAVA member veterans participated in more than a dozen parades nationwide and hundreds of other local events from Portland, Maine to Los Angeles, California. In New York City, over 160 local veterans marched up Fifth Avenue in the Veterans Day Parade, and after the march, over 300 veterans and family members attended the IAVA Veterans Day Celebration at the historic Plaza Hotel.

THE NASDAQ CLOSING BELL ON JULY 4TH

IAVA member veterans celebrated Independence Day weekend by ringing the closing bell at the NASDAQ stock exchange in New York City. At the ceremony, IAVA Board Member and Afghanistan veteran Wes Moore delivered a speech calling on Americans to pause ahead of the holiday to remember U.S. troops serving abroad and new veterans who have recently returned home.

MEMORIAL DAY

In observance of Memorial Day, IAVA member veterans gathered in communities across the country to commemorate and honor the more than one million Americans who have died in military service for our country. IAVA member veterans kicked off Memorial Day weekend in New York City with an interactive membership booth at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum for Fleet Week. In Washington, D.C. member veterans attended the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. In Chicago, IAVA member veterans and their families gathered for a special “family night” at famous Wrigley Field. In honor of the fallen, more than 800 IAVA supporters texted notes of remembrance in honor of loved ones on IAVA’s Wall of Remembrance at IAVA.org.

Afghanistan veteran and IAVA Board Member Wes Moore lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day.



Members of Team IAVA at Pat's Run 2009.



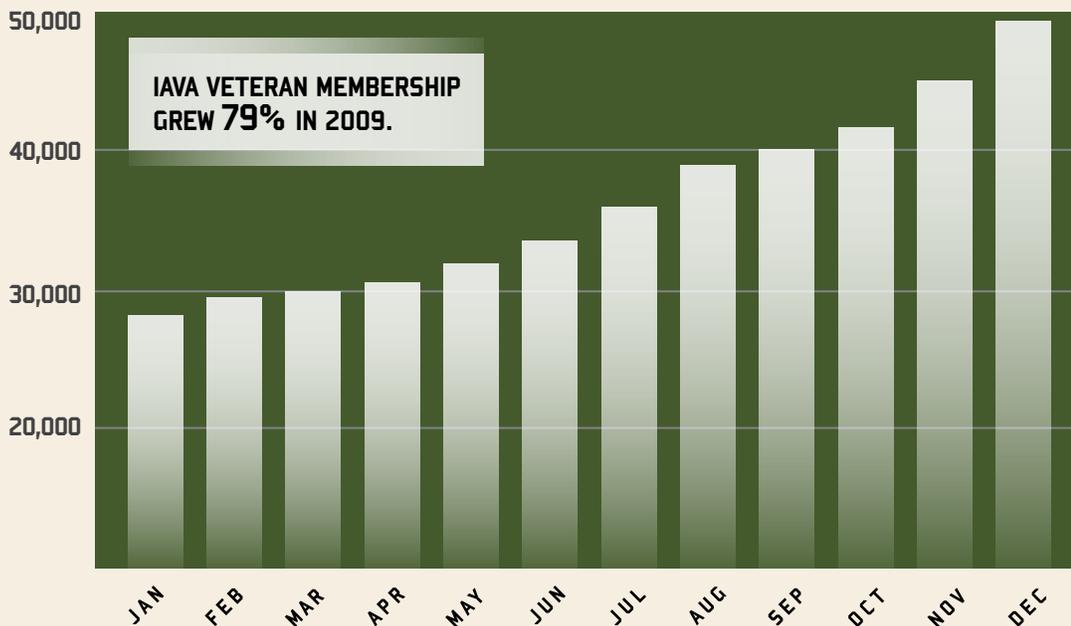
PAT'S RUN 2009

Pat's Run, a 4.2 mile walk/run memorializing Army Ranger and NFL star Pat Tillman, takes place in Tempe, Arizona every April and is one of IAVA's largest outreach events of the year. In 2009, 150 IAVA member veterans and family members joined together for the 4.2 mile races in Pat's native San Jose, California and Tempe, Arizona. In May, IAVA coordinated dozens of U.S. troops to run the 4.2 mile race in honor of their fallen comrade in a "shadow" Pat's Run around Forward Operating Base Gardez in Afghanistan.

MEETING WITH JCS CHAIRMAN ADMIRAL MULLEN

In April 2009, IAVA Executive Director Paul Rieckhoff and dozens of IAVA member veterans welcomed Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to a gathering of the Hudson Union Society in New York, where he discussed the reintegration needs of returning service members and their families.

IAVA VETERAN MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IN 2009





ON THE GROUND NATIONWIDE (CONTINUED)

"OPEN UP YOUR ARMS"

In October 2009, IAVA launched the "Open Up Your Arms" campaign with recording artists O.A.R. to mobilize Americans by asking them to pledge their support to our nation's men and women in uniform. The campaign features a dynamic music video for O.A.R.'s "War Song" at the innovative website OpenUpYourArms.org, where users can sign the pledge and upload pictures and messages of support for our troops and veterans. Over 23,000 supporters have signed the pledge and are using the site to find out more ways to get involved, both in their communities and on a national level.

SALUTING "WARRIOR CHAMPIONS"

In October 2009, IAVA hosted a premiere screening of the documentary film "Warrior Champions" at the Austin Film Festival, in conjunction with the U.S. Olympic Committee. The film profiles wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans on their journeys to compete in the Paralympics in Beijing, China. A dozen IAVA member veterans attended the premiere, which also included a reception and a Q&A session with the film's stars and producers. IAVA coordinated dozens of screenings of "Warrior Champions" across the country for member veterans.

PALM® HONORS HEROES

In June 2009, Palm Inc. partnered with Sprint to host a special benefit in honor of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans at the launch of the company's new Palm Pre in Los Angeles. As guests of honor, IAVA member veterans were provided with free Palm Pre smartphones and treated to special performances by legendary comedians Jerry Seinfeld and Jason Alexander.

BACKSTAGE AT "THE COLBERT REPORT"

IAVA Executive Director Paul Rieckhoff and IAVA member veterans went behind the scenes at Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" where they spoke with comedian Stephen Colbert about his recent USO tour to visit U.S. troops in Baghdad. Ahead of his trip, IAVA member veterans also joined Colbert at a cover shoot for his special guest-edition of *Newsweek* on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

IAVA ON MTV'S "THE REAL WORLD"

In March 2009, MTV's "The Real World" featured cast member and Iraq veteran Ryan Conklin as he visited IAVA headquarters and met with staff to learn about IAVA's mission. Conklin redeployed in February 2009 and was featured on the MTV special "Return to Duty."



IAVA member veterans get together at an event in Washington, D.C.

HONORING WOMEN WARRIORS

In March 2009, IAVA member veterans across the country recognized the outstanding contributions of women to the military in honor of National Women's History Month. IAVA partnered with leading veterans service organization (VSO) Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to host a special screening on Capitol Hill of the film "Lioness." The acclaimed documentary tells the story of a group of female Army support soldiers who were part of the first program in American history to send women into direct ground combat. The screening featured a panel discussion about female troops and veterans' issues. IAVA also engaged supporters online through an interactive web feature profiling the history of women in the military. To learn more, visit iava.org/content/women-military.



AIMEE SHERROD

BELLS, TENNESSEE, OIF & OEF VETERAN

Aimee Sherrod, an aircraft inspector with the U.S. Air Force, has been deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). After serving tours in Pakistan, Jordan and Iraq, Aimee was medically discharged with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in 2005.

For several years after returning home, Aimee struggled alone with severe PTSD. That changed when she found IAVA's Community of Veterans. Reading through the online community's PTSD support forums inspired Aimee to take her symptoms seriously and seek counseling for the first time. She credits the support she found on the social network with making her feel "more normal" and "not so crazy." Although her counseling has brought back feelings she had buried for years, she understands that progress takes time and is hopeful that she will be able to take full control of her life someday soon.

On Community of Veterans, Aimee also learned about a program that matches PTSD sufferers with dogs trained to recognize their symptoms. She was united with her service dog Bear in October 2009, and says that relationship helps her better cope with her PTSD symptoms and brings her joy every day. Aimee is a proud IAVA member veteran and volunteer.





EQUIPPING THE NEXT GREATEST GENERATION: NEWGIBILL.ORG

On August 1, 2009, the landmark Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect. IAVA fought for the passage of this historic legislation for 18 months and was determined to ensure that all eligible Iraq and Afghanistan veterans had the tools and resources they needed to access their benefits. To that end, IAVA successfully launched a groundbreaking outreach campaign anchored by www.NewGIBill.org. The innovative website receives thousands of visits a day from veterans seeking information about the new benefit and makes an in-house GI Bill expert available to directly answer thousands of users' questions.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the largest investment in our nation's veterans and their families since World War II. However, a significant number of veterans have been short-changed by the confusing and unpredictable legislation. Many veterans who have tried to use their GI Bill benefits have been left waiting for checks as they struggle to pay their living and scholastic expenses. Throughout August 2009, reports from IAVA member veterans revealed an enormous backlog in delayed New GI Bill payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and in response IAVA issued a critical press release calling on the VA to move quickly to eliminate these delays and prevent veterans from paying out-of-pocket for tuition and expenses. Within a week of the statement's release, the VA announced it would begin issuing emergency payments up to \$3,000 to eligible student veterans. Nearly 72,000 veterans received these emergency payments.

IAVA will continue to advocate for upgrades to the Post-9/11 GI Bill that will streamline processing and provide all veterans with the generous and equitable benefit that they have earned. Thanks to IAVA's efforts, legislation has been introduced that would include tuition for vocational schools, improve claims processing by schools, expand the benefit to pay for test preparation courses and provide more work-study jobs for student veterans.

DON GOMEZ, JR. BELLROSE, NEW YORK, OIF VETERAN

Don Gomez, Jr. is a former Sergeant in the U.S. Army and an IAVA member veteran and leader. He deployed to Iraq twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 82nd Airborne Division. Don recently graduated from the City College of New York (CCNY) with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. He used the Post 9/11 GI Bill to pay for his college education and says the benefit allowed him to completely dedicate himself to his studies without worrying about how to pay his bills. At CCNY, Don founded the City College Veterans Association and was instrumental in establishing an Office of Veterans Affairs. He is also a 2009 recipient of the prestigious Truman Scholarship.



IAVA's NewGI Bill.org is the premiere resource for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans returning to school.



THE POST-9/11 GI BILL IS THE LARGEST INVESTMENT IN OUR NATION'S VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE WORLD WAR II.

FEATURES OF NEWGIBILL.ORG



Robust calculators for determining projected benefits, eligibility, and transferability.



Information section for colleges and universities to help make their campuses more veteran-friendly.



Comprehensive FAQ section, and the option to submit your own questions.



Breaking updates through the "GI Bill Wire" blog on the status of legislation and implementation of the benefit.



Streamlined checklist for applying for the New GI Bill.



Personal support from knowledgeable IAVA staff.



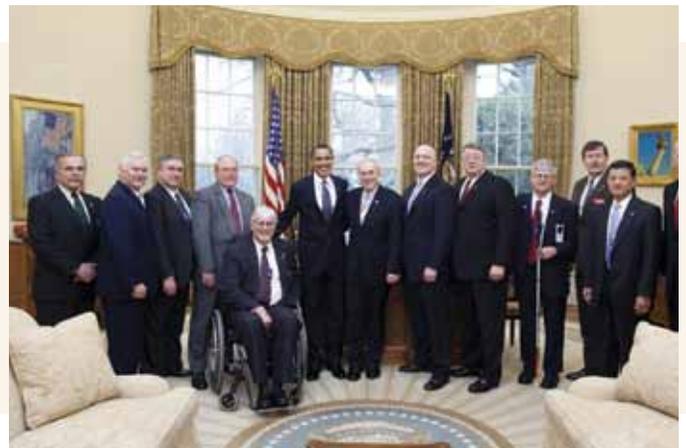


DELIVERING FOR VETERANS ON CAPITOL HILL

IAVA serves as the foremost advocate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in Washington, and pushes government to fully honor and care for our nation's warriors. Through grassroots advocacy, a bold Legislative Agenda, and solid relationships with lawmakers and other veterans' service organizations (VSOs), IAVA creates broad coalitions and powerful campaigns to ensure that our nation's leaders address the most urgent issues facing new veterans.

In 2009, IAVA successfully advocated for many critical legislative victories for veterans, including advanced appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); mandatory, face-to-face and confidential mental health screenings for every service member returning from combat and retroactive "stop-loss" payments. These historic pieces of legislation will make a profound difference in the lives of not just Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, but veterans of all generations. IAVA veteran staff members and member veterans also testified before Congress eight times in 2009.

President Obama met
with IAVA and other VSO
leaders in March 2009.



STORM THE HILL 2009

In February 2009, IAVA brought a dynamic delegation of member veterans from around the country to Washington, D.C. to participate in IAVA's fourth annual "Storm the Hill" legislative trip. This distinguished and energetic group of 16 member veterans led a national press conference, briefed VA officials, and met with over 125 Congressional offices to present IAVA's 2009 Legislative Agenda. The annual trip introduces veterans to a unique kind of public service, educates lawmakers and has a direct impact on the lives of countless veterans.

Hundreds of IAVA supporters donated more than \$38,000 to fund the veterans' trips, which ensured the campaign's success. Supporters could then follow the veterans on Capitol Hill during the week by visiting StormtheHill.org, an innovative blog where Storm the Hill participants provided real-time text, photo and video updates on their experiences during the week.



IAVA's "Team Charlie" meets with a Senator during Storm the Hill 2009.

**ADVANCED FUNDING FOR THE VA:
HOW IAVA MEMBER VETERANS AND SUPPORTERS CHANGED GOVERNMENT FOREVER**

Storm the Hill 2009 served as the catalyst for Congress to introduce a bill to secure advanced funding for the VA, IAVA's top legislative priority. The legislation requires Congress to pass the VA budget at least one year in advance, ensuring timely and predictable funding for VA hospitals and clinics that serve six million veterans nationwide.

Through critical legislative testimony, media advocacy, meetings with leading VSOs and the White House and the support of thousands of IAVA members, IAVA kept the pressure on Congress throughout the summer to pass the bill. By October 2009 it still had not passed, and Congress had again failed to pass the budget on time for the 20th time in the last 23 years. IAVA encouraged thousands of supporters to call and write their members of Congress at the most critical stages of the legislative process, echoing the message our member veterans brought directly to the Capitol during Storm the Hill. The legislation passed quickly thereafter, and in late October, President Obama signed the historic bill into law. Thanks to IAVA's efforts and the help of our supporters, the VA is now able to end rationed care for our nation's heroes forever.



IAVA's Paul Rieckhoff joins Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi as she signs a bill passing advanced funding for VA health care.

IN OCTOBER 2009, CONGRESS HAD AGAIN FAILED TO PASS THE VA BUDGET ON TIME, FOR THE 20TH TIME IN THE LAST 23 YEARS. IAVA PUSHED SUPPORTERS TO CONTACT CONGRESS, AND BY THE END OF THE MONTH, THE PRESIDENT HAD SIGNED ADVANCED FUNDING INTO LAW.



REY LEAL

EDINBURG, TEXAS, OIF VETERAN

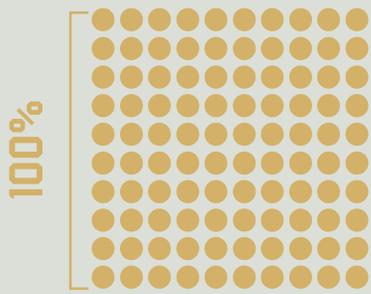
Rey Leal, of Edinburg, Texas, has deployed to Iraq twice with the 3rd Battalion 5th Marines out of Camp Pendleton, California. During his first tour from September 2004 to May 2005, he was stationed in Fallujah, where he took part in some of the heaviest fighting during Operation Phantom Fury. Eight months after he returned home, Rey was deployed a second time to conduct counterinsurgency operations along the Euphrates River.

Readjusting to civilian life was much more difficult than Rey could have imagined. He suffered one of the invisible wounds of the war, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and struggled with flashbacks, insomnia and debilitating depression. His symptoms alienated his family and threatened his marriage. To make matters worse, the closest VA hospital was five hours away, so it was nearly impossible to access adequate, consistent care.

Rey learned about IAVA by seeing the PSA “Alone” on television one night. He immediately joined Community of Veterans and embraced the opportunity to connect with his fellow Marines.

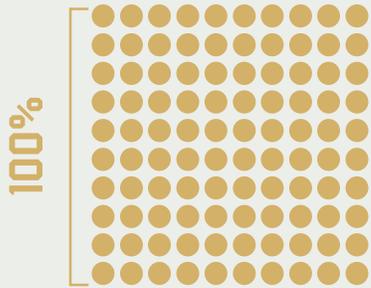
Rey is now on the active road to recovery and is a powerful young leader. Thanks to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, he studies Environmental Science full time at South Texas College. Leal is also an effective and engaging advocate for his fellow Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. He participated in Storm the Hill 2009, and in May 2009, he testified on behalf of IAVA before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding the quality of VA healthcare. Over 4,000 IAVA supporters signed an online pledge backing Rey and his testimony.

IAVA'S 2009 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES: CRITICAL VICTORIES FOR VETERANS



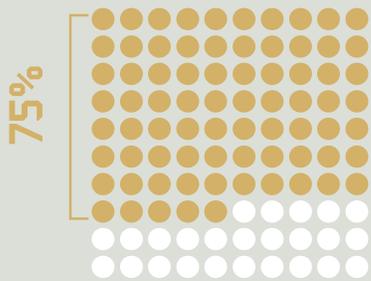
ADVANCE-FUND VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

IAVA's top legislative priority for 2009 fully funds the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care budget one year in advance, which ensures timely care for all generations of veterans. IAVA led the fight in securing this victory.



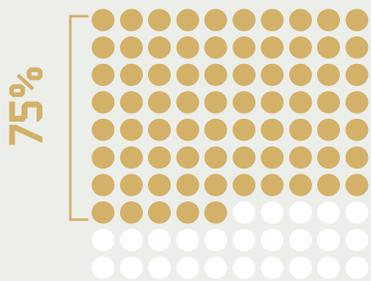
ENSURE THOROUGH, PROFESSIONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL SCREENING FOR INVISIBLE INJURIES

After four hard-fought years of advocacy by IAVA, Congress passed mandatory, in-person mental health assessments as part of the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. Now every returning service member will be required to complete an in-person mental health screening with a trained professional. Previously, these screenings were completed online and reviewed by personnel with little or no formal training on identifying potential problems. Mandatory mental health screenings have been a top priority for IAVA since 2007, and is a measure that will save lives.



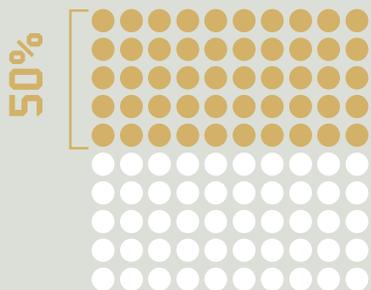
COMBAT VETERANS' UNEMPLOYMENT

Veterans facing a tough economy and a tougher job search now have a new tool at their disposal thanks to IAVA's successful advocacy. In October 2009, Congress authorized a two-year tax credit for employers who hire Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, up to \$2,400 per hire. Although this was a huge victory, veterans still face alarming unemployment rates, and IAVA continues to work with Congress to secure jobs for our nation's veterans.



IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR FEMALE VETERANS

The House and the Senate each passed bills to expand and improve health care services for female veterans. The legislation would provide training for counselors who treat service members suffering from sexual trauma and expand VA health care to newborn children of female veterans. IAVA will continue to work to ensure that the needs of female veterans are a priority, and that female health care services are available at all VA facilities.



ERADICATE HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

The VA budget contained over \$75 million in additional funding for homeless services in 2009. Additionally, the "Homes for Heroes Act" passed the House of Representatives in June, and provides grants for community based non-profits offering services to homeless veterans, This legislation also funds an additional 20,000 housing vouchers through the HUD-VA voucher program. IAVA will continue to support and advocate for measures that work to eliminate veteran homelessness.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES IN 2009

IAVA successfully **PRESSED THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) TO END THE PRACTICE OF "STOP-LOSS"**, and to cease issuing orders to hold tens of thousands of service members past their enlistments. Additionally, IAVA secured retroactive payments worth \$500 per month for those who had been "stop-lossed." IAVA also required the DOD to **PROHIBIT THE USE OF TOXIC OPEN AIR BURN PITS** in war zones, and to notify service members who have been exposed to the hazardous fumes while in Iraq and Afghanistan. **IAVA SECURED FULL FUNDING FOR THE YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM** to provide mental health screenings, job trainings and family reintegration seminars for all returning Reservists. Finally, **IAVA ENHANCED VOTER PROTECTIONS** for service members deployed overseas, ensuring that their ballots are counted.

IAVA ISSUE REPORTS

IAVA continues to offer comprehensive analysis and policy research on the most critical issues facing veterans, including veterans' health care, unemployment and homelessness. IAVA's timely and informative Issue Reports are a go-to resource for lawmakers, journalists and concerned citizens, and have a huge impact in the media. To download free copies, please visit IAVA.org/IVAIssueReports.



INVISIBLE WOUNDS: PSYCHOLOGICAL AND NEUROLOGICAL INJURIES CONFRONT A NEW GENERATION OF VETERANS (JANUARY 2009): This report, updated since its first release in January 2008, reviews the alarming rate of mental health injuries and traumatic brain injury among returning veterans, and finds that less than half of those who need treatment are receiving proper care.

CAREERS AFTER COMBAT: EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION CHALLENGES FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS (MARCH 2009): "*Careers After Combat*" examines the difficulties of transitioning from the military to civilian workforce, the current state of enforcement of USERRA protections and other issues related to veteran employment. The report finds that unemployment among Iraq and Afghanistan era veterans is significantly higher compared to the civilian population.

COMING HOME: THE HOUSING CRISIS AND HOMELESSNESS THREATEN NEW VETERANS (MARCH 2009): This subject was previously covered by IAVA alongside unemployment issues, but as the financial crisis hit in 2008, IAVA expanded on the statistics relating to veteran homelessness and military families facing foreclosure. For example, foreclosure in military towns was increasing at four times the national average in early 2008.

WOMEN WARRIORS: SUPPORTING 'SHE WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE' (OCTOBER 2009): Almost 200,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, representing 11 percent of all service members deployed. This groundbreaking report reviews the available data concerning the difficulties female combat veterans face in getting treatment for mental health injuries and female health care, and focuses on the unique service and homecoming challenges facing female troops and veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.



HONORING HEROES

IAVA'S THIRD ANNUAL HEROES GALA

IAVA's Third Annual Heroes Gala took place on November 10, 2009, the eve of Veterans Day, at Gotham Hall in New York City. The evening was an extraordinary gathering of veterans of all generations, and thanks to the generosity of IAVA's supporters, IAVA raised over \$400,000. More than 350 guests were in attendance, including more than 75 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans from around the country who joined IAVA for an amazing week of Veterans Day activities.

IAVA was thrilled to honor Iraq veteran, motivational speaker and actor J.R. Martinez with the *2009 IAVA Veterans Leadership Award*, and Van Toffler, President of MTV Networks, with the *2009 IAVA Civilian Service Award*. NBC Nightly News Anchor Brian Williams served as an outstanding Master of Ceremonies, and award presenters Chris Mortensen, ESPN Senior NFL Analyst, and best-selling author, Afghanistan veteran and IAVA Board Member Wes Moore offered moving tributes. The Gala culminated in an unforgettable performance by the children of the PS22 Chorus.

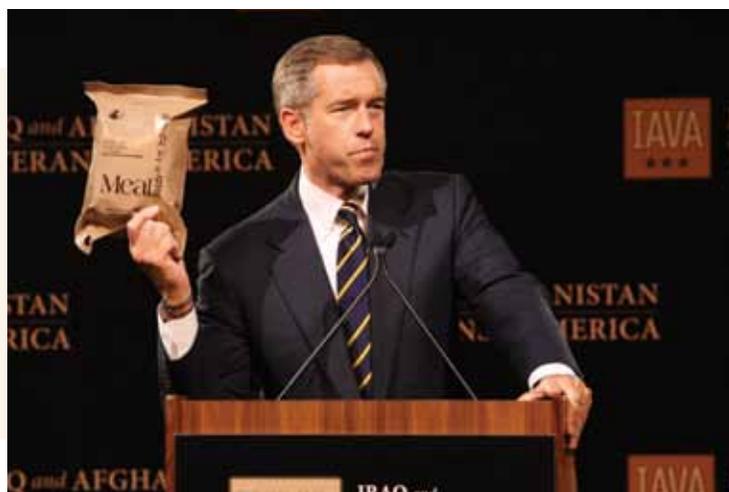


J.R. MARTINEZ, DALTON, GEORGIA, *OIF VETERAN*

J.R. Martinez enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 2002 after graduating from high school. He underwent Basic and Advanced Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was deployed to Iraq in March 2003. That April, J.R. was driving a Humvee when his left front tire hit a landmine. He suffered smoke inhalation and severe burns to more than 40 percent of his body. He was immediately evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany for emergency care and was eventually sent to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, Texas, where he spent 34 months recovering. Since his injury, J.R. has undergone more than 30 different surgeries, including skin grafts and cosmetic surgery.

Today, J.R. uses his experience to inspire others. He is a sought-after motivational speaker and has been profiled by a variety of national news outlets including The Washington Post, "60 Minutes" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Since October 2008, J.R. has portrayed wounded veteran Brot Monroe in ABC's Emmy® Award-winning daytime drama, "All My Children." In 2009, IAVA presented J.R. with the *IAVA Veterans Leadership Award* for exemplifying hope, perseverance and an ardent commitment to his fellow veterans.

NBC Nightly News Anchor and Managing Editor Brian Williams holds up an “MRE” at IAVA’s Third Annual Heroes Gala.



TO SEE ALL OF THE INCREDIBLE PHOTOS, SPEECHES, VIDEOS AND NEWS FEATURES FROM THE EVENING, PLEASE VISIT WWW.IVAHEROESGALA.ORG.

THE HEROES CELEBRATION

IAVA was excited to hold the First Annual Heroes Celebration in Los Angeles on April 30, 2009, hosted by Cameron Diaz, Norman Lear and Nick Styne. The Heroes Celebration brought together over 175 guests at the headquarters of Creative Artists Agency (CAA) to salute our newest generation of veterans and celebrate the achievements of IAVA. The energetic and inspiring evening raised an astounding \$200,000 and connected the Hollywood community with the veterans’ movement. The silent auction was a hit, and actor Cameron Diaz, CAA Foundation Executive Gabe Kleinman, and IAVA Deputy Executive Director Todd Bowers gave inspiring remarks reminding everyone in attendance that our nation is at a tipping point for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and we must continue to show them real support.

IAVA member veterans at IAVA’s First Annual Heroes Celebration in Los Angeles.





DECEASED
ARMY
VETERAN
556
BARBERS
POINT
HAWAII



**IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS of AMERICA**

www.IAVA.org



IAVA POWERS AHEAD IN 2010

IAVA will continue to foster a community for veterans and their families by providing meaningful and enjoyable experiences and events for member veterans and their families. IAVA will also focus on educating the public on the issues facing veterans by driving attention in the media and increasing IAVA's research capacity.

EXPANDING IAVA'S COMMUNITY OF VETERANS

Community of Veterans is serving a great need for veterans, and IAVA will continue to build this dynamic online network in 2010. The social network will continue to evolve as the online hub where veterans can connect directly with IAVA, get information on local events, and build lasting connections with their fellow member veterans.

ACHIEVING PROGRESS FOR ALL VETERANS

IAVA's top legislative priorities in 2010 are to modernize the disability claims process for veterans, advocate for upgrades to the New GI Bill, secure jobs for our nation's heroes, and improve healthcare for female veterans and veterans suffering from mental health injuries. IAVA will continue to be a leader in advocating on behalf of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

IAVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IAVA's Board of Directors, established in 2008, is comprised of a distinguished and committed group of individuals who represent exceptional leadership in a variety of fields. As advocates for today's veterans and committed supporters of IAVA, the Board is vital in shaping the organization's growth and direction, and ensuring the achievement of our mission to improve the lives of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families.

LESLIE GELB

President Emeritus, The Council on Foreign Relations

ROSANNE HAGGERTY

Executive Director & Founder, Common Ground

PERRY JEFFERIES

Founding Member of IAVA
Iraq veteran, US Army

GABE KLEINMAN

Executive, Creative Artists Agency Foundation

YANNICK MARCHAL

Foreign Exchange Derivatives, Deutsche Bank
Former CFO of IAVA

WESTLEY MOORE

Investment Professional, Citigroup Global Markets
Afghanistan veteran, US Army

CRAIG NEWMARK

Founder & Customer Service Representative,
Craigslist.org

PAUL RIECKHOFF

Executive Director & Founder, IAVA
Iraq veteran, US Army

EDWARD VICK (CHAIRMAN)

Former CEO, Young & Rubicam
Vietnam veteran, US Navy

FOR FULL BIOGRAPHIES, VISIT IAVA.ORG/BOARDOFDIRECTORS.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC. 501(c)3

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash	\$861,255	\$763,827
Investments	28,575	474
Prepaid Insurance	1,043	833
Property and equipment, at cost	23,854	-
Other Assets	2,750	11,624
TOTAL ASSETS	917,477	776,758
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	82,463	17,678
Deferred Revenue	-	800,072
Total Liabilities	82,463	817,750
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	835,014	(40,992)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$917,477	\$776,758

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS: SUPPORT AND REVENUE

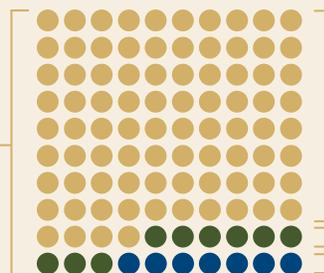
Contributions	\$3,679,206	\$2,094,574
Special Events	599,655	200,930
Non-cash Donation	175,000	-
Unrealized Gain on Investment	3,262	-
Interest Income	-	21
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	4,457,123	2,295,525

EXPENSES

Program Services	3,006,601	2,097,593
Management and General	335,627	222,658
Fundraising	238,889	191,243
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,581,117	2,511,494
Increase in Net Assets	876,006	(215,969)
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	(40,992)	174,977
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$835,014	\$(40,992)

2009 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

TOTAL EXPENSES
[\$3,581,117]



84% PROGRAM SERVICES [\$3,006,601]

9% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL [\$335,627]

7% FUNDRAISING [\$238,899]

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA ACTION FUND 501(c)4

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash	\$195	\$3,656
TOTAL ASSETS	195	3,656
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	8,296	500
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	(8,101)	3,156
TOTAL NET ASSETS	195	3,656
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$195	\$3,656

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

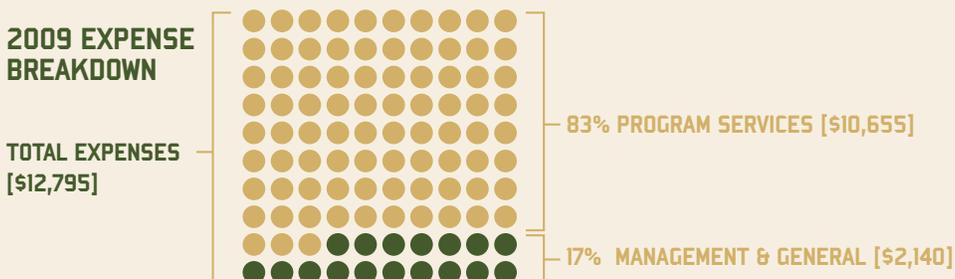
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$1,538	\$53,872
Other Income	-	33,733
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	1,538	87,605

EXPENSES

Program Services	10,655	173,728
Management and General	2,140	10,378
Fundraising	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,795	184,106
Change in Net Assets	(11,257)	(96,501)

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	3,156	99,657
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$(8,101)	\$3,156



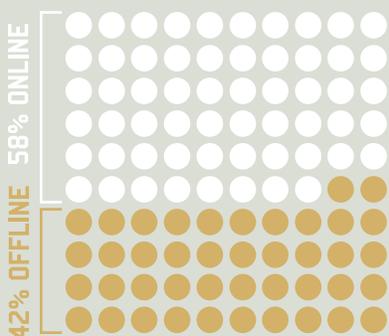


MAKING AN IMPACT: IAVA DONORS AND REVENUE

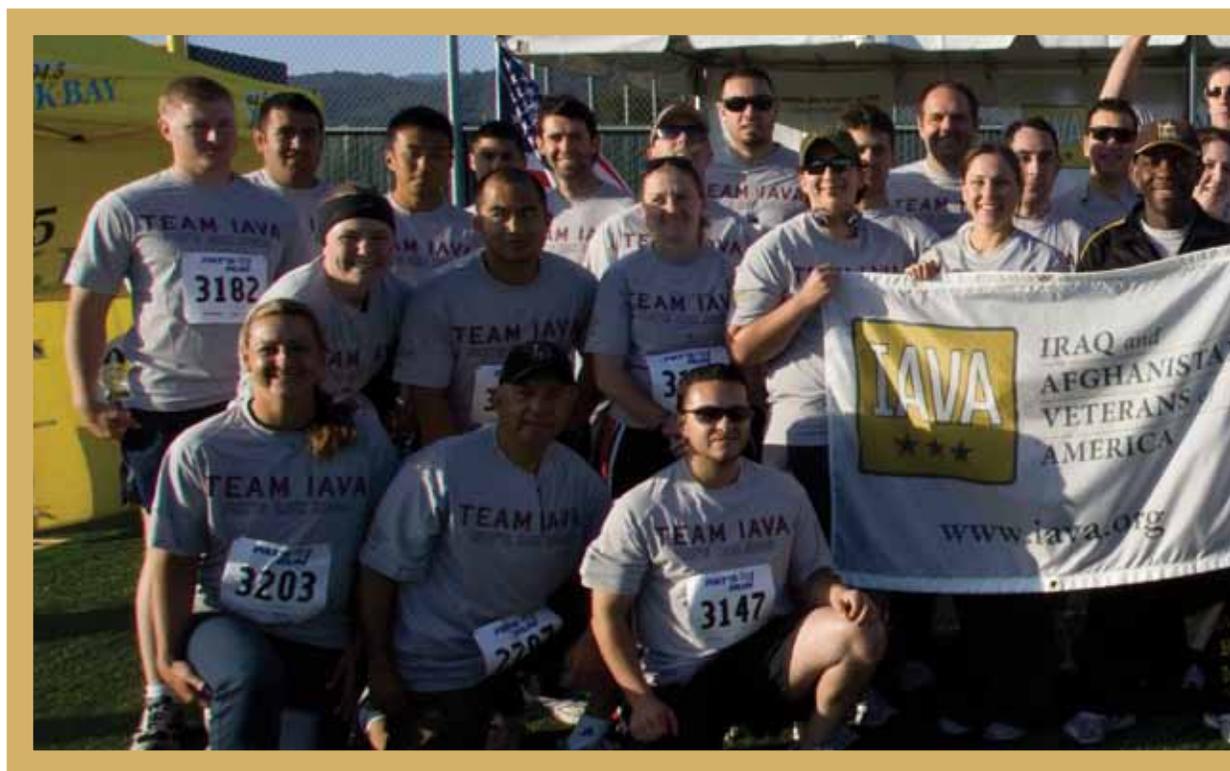
IAVA is fully funded through individual and corporate donations, foundation grants, the Combined Federal Campaign and earned income. In 2009, IAVA had 3,000 individual donors, 1 in 5 of whom were veterans themselves. Local fundraisers, social media campaigns and engaging special events allow IAVA to maximize the reach of our mission.

PLEASE VISIT IAVA.ORG/TAKEACTION TO LEARN MORE.

ONLINE VS. OFFLINE DONATIONS



Innovative and engaging online outreach resulted in the majority of IAVA's individual donations coming through online. Our individual donors are a testament to the diversity of IAVA and the national veterans' movement. Please visit IAVA.org/Donate to make a gift today.



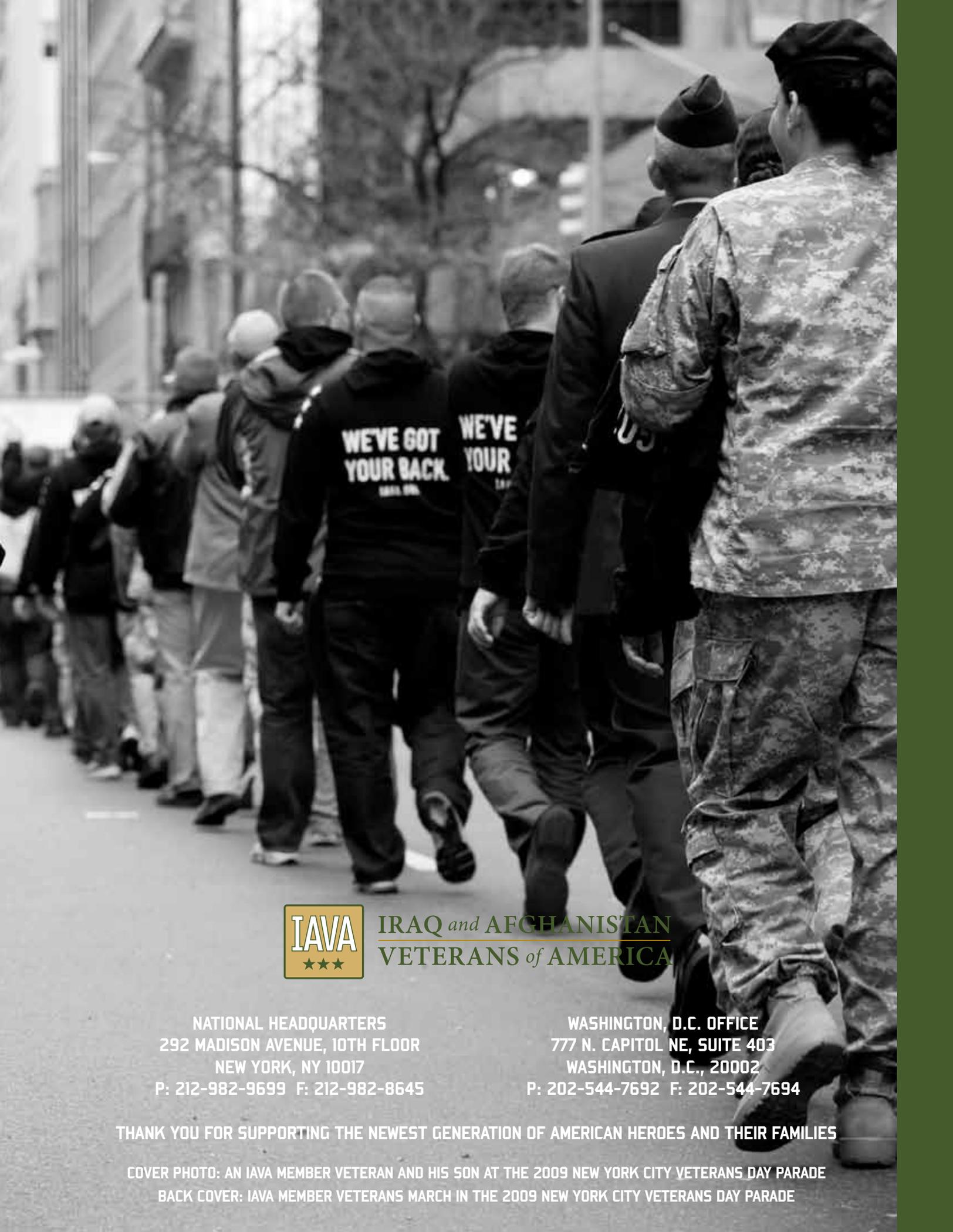
THANK YOU

ON BEHALF OF AMERICA'S NEWEST GENERATION OF HEROES AND THEIR FAMILIES, THANK YOU FOR HAVING OUR BACK.



PHOTO: TEAM IAVA AT PAT'S RUN 2009





**IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS of AMERICA**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
292 MADISON AVENUE, 10TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10017
P: 212-982-9699 F: 212-982-8645

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
777 N. CAPITOL NE, SUITE 403
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20002
P: 202-544-7692 F: 202-544-7694

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE NEWEST GENERATION OF AMERICAN HEROES AND THEIR FAMILIES

COVER PHOTO: AN IAVA MEMBER VETERAN AND HIS SON AT THE 2009 NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE
BACK COVER: IAVA MEMBER VETERANS MARCH IN THE 2009 NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE