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Dear Local Presidents, Union Brothers and Sisters, and Veteran Supporters:

On March 23 & 24, 2010, the TWU Project is going to Walter Reed Hospital and we would like to ask for your assistance with “The Warriors Unit – Project” (TWU- Project).

The TWU-ATD Veterans Committee is hosting a drive to help our wounded warriors. We are in collaboration with the USO, Wounded Warriors Project, AA Veterans Initiatives (AAVI) and Veteran/Military Employee Resource Groups (VMERG) to go to Walter Reed medical Center (WRMC) in Washington, D.C. and distribute some much needed care items. Attached you will find a list of items that we are trying to collect, as well as an address to send these items or any monetary donations, to help our cause. These men and women need our help and they have paid some ultimate prices for our freedom in this country. Most of us will never experience, or know, the sacrifices that these men and women have given for us and our nation. The largest donation item we are seeking is the tear-away-pants which allow amputees to have easier access to their prosthetics. The rehabilitation unit at WRMC has very limited number of these pants. Please help us as we help these soldiers, sailors and airman with items we take for granted as citizens, but they view as a comfort item in their times of transition to civilian life with life altering injuries.

The TWU Air Transport Division Veterans Committee (ATDVC) is a committee of TWU Veterans from all branches of the US Military. We currently have Veterans Committees at 26 Locals around the ATD. We started trying to network the committees about six years ago; however, we did not officially become an entity until November 11, 2008, at which time we elected four officers to act as board members and have a Liaison from the ATD Office. From our formation in 2008, we have grown from 11 concerned Locals to 26 active committees within the ATD. Our ATDVC goal is to see that number double by the end of 2010. Every quarterly meeting that we hold, our number grows a little at a time.

What the ATDVC does is assist TWU members, who are called to active duty or are attached to reserve units, become aware of their contractual rights and to ensure our companies follow the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). We also assist our TWU Veterans (retired or prior service connected) with getting in contact with VA service Officers or Veteran Organization Service officers (i.e. DAV, VFW or American Legion). Many of the ATDVC members have the answers our members need or

know how to locate the answer through the Department of Veterans Affairs website. The ATDVC is broke up into sub-committees that assist in a variety of ways as well.

- Our Legislative Sub-Committee keeps abreast of the ever changing laws and legislation concerning our Veterans and Military
- Our Communications Sub-Committee keeps our website up-to-date with the latest electronic information, as well as where to locate forms needed for the VA system
- Our Benefits Sub-Committee deals with our contractual rights and benefits, which include ensuring that the MLOA for each company is followed and executed properly
- Our Military Leave of Absence Sub-Committee is there to guide our TWU members who are called to active duty or are attached to reserve units have a smooth transition to and from their work place.

Many of the ATDVC members are also active in their Locals Veterans/Military Employee Resource Group (VMERG). This VMERG is comprised of 100% volunteers. VMERG is comprised of not only Veterans' but Mothers, Fathers and relatives of military personnel, while others are just patriotic people who want to assist our Veterans and Troops abroad and at home. VMERG groups try to do whatever is necessary for them to support our military troops and their families, such as greeting incoming and outgoing troops at our Airports, attending benefit dinners to support various military fund raisers, in addition to Cell Phones for Soldiers and many, many other projects. The ATDVC's relationship with VMERG is increasingly evolving. Our Groups share common interest and bonds which are united by our connection to the US Military. The Mantra of the ATDVC is "Veterans' Helping Veterans – NO MATTER WHAT". Furthermore by reaching out to groups like VMERG; we not only observe how our union brothers and sisters are treated, we guarantee that all US Military forces are given the respect and dignity they deserve.

On behalf of the TWU ATDVC, I would like to thank each and every one of you who helps us help others.

Respectfully,

Thom Lee

Thom Lee
TWU – ATDVC Chairman

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