

## **Chiropractic Care for Returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Now Available Through Growing Volunteer DC Network**

Doctors of chiropractic from around the United States have answered the call to participate in a new initiative aimed at supporting America's newest returning veterans with immediate access to chiropractic services, in addition to the limited programs officially available through the US Department of Defense. Out of a desire to serve and to fill in a vitally important health care gap, ICA doctors around the nation have extended an offer of care for one full year for any US military veteran returning from overseas deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq, at no charge. The concept was developed by ICA's Southern Regional Director Dr. R.J. Kelly, who had initiated such a program in his own personal practice, with very positive results among veterans.

"The greatest gift we have to give is the correction of the vertebral subluxation to restore the flow of Innate in another," said Dr. Kelly. "My greatest joy is to be allowed to do that for the people I meet. I am pleased that so many of my ICA colleagues share my vision and my understanding of this current need, and if you share my joy, I call on you to add your name to the roster of DCs committed to delivering this gift to a special group of our fellow citizens – our men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States."

Tens of thousands of US military personnel are being rotated back to the US, many to civilian life, and others to stateside deployment. All have been subjected to exceptional strain, with a new pattern of injury and trauma. Regrettably, the care those returning veterans have been receiving through official channels has not always been adequate. In some instances, it has been the subject of scathing criticism. Whatever the situation for returning veterans, they need help and support from the community, including the chiropractic community. The impact of war on the human body and soul has been given much serious consideration over the years by chiropractic leaders. ICA believes that through the power of a chiropractic adjustment, chiropractic offers a unique asset, as returning veterans strive to recover and restore their lives physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

"Right now there are literally thousands in our country that are offering an even greater gift... their lives. Our military, our returning veterans, whether visibly wounded or free of outward symptoms, are coming home changed, and need our help as chiropractors," said Dr. Kelly.

ICA has been in contact with various veterans' organizations and service groups and is developing a protocol for this new program, as well as developing lines of communication to make sure that as many veterans as possible know that this initiative is up and running, and how to find a participating doctor of chiropractic

in their area. “We want to help volunteer doctors reach out to the returning veteran population in a spirit of service in the most clinically sound, ethically based and timely manner possible,” said ICA Executive Director Robert N. Pohtos. ICA has posted an initial roster of participating doctors of chiropractic on the ICA website at [www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org) and will update this resource directory as additional doctors join the volunteer ranks.

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