

... November 11, 2010 News Advisory ...

## **WOUNDED VETS' CROSS-COUNTRY "GUMPATHON" TO HIT FINISH LINE IN CALIFORNIA ON VETERANS DAY**

***Unprecedented Coast-to-Coast Marathon for Wounded Vets to Arrive in Santa Monica Just in Time for Veterans Day; CAFAmerica Donor Advised Fund Still Accepting Charitable Donations.***

**SANTA MONICA, CA//November 11, 2010//**The five-man "Gumpathon" team, which includes wounded members of the U.S. Marine Corps and Great Britain's Royal Marines, will arrive in Santa Monica on the morning of Veteran's Day, having completed an epic 3,530-mile-long charity run from New York to California.

CAFAmerica, in partnership with The Gumpathon, launched a Donor Advised Fund in late July in order to be available for US fundraising activities devoted to the charity race, which began in New York City on September 10, 2010 and ends in Santa Monica on November 11, 2010. CAFAmerica will continue to accept donations for as long as they pour in.

Inspired by the Academy Award-winning film "Forrest Gump," the Gumpathon charity continues to help raise money for three military service charities: in the UK - The Royal Marine Charitable Trust Fund and Help for Heroes and in the US, The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. All three charities are still accepting donations through CAFAmerica's Gumpathon fund. The charity's goal is still to raise \$1.5million for each of the three charities.

CAFAmerica CEO Susan Saxon-Harrold said: **"As The Gumpathon Marathon concludes in Santa Monica, we want emphasize that our related Donor Advised Fund will continue to distribute charitable gifts to our most severely-wounded soldiers returning from conflict -- men and women suffering from horrific injuries such as limb-loss and permanent physical disabilities and impairments. CAFAmerica is proud to have worked with The Gumpathon and partner in this noble effort of fundraising for disabled veterans who protect our freedoms, and we hope to continue to see contributions for the next few weeks."**

The Gumpathon Runner US Marine Gunnery Sergeant Charles 'Chunks' Padilla said: **"Take time to think about the Marines and Sailors that are fighting for your country, defending our way of life. For me this was the chance to do something for our wounded servicemen and women and make a difference in their life. They need our help as they have given their all so I hope that people who support this cause will donate and give something back to them."**

The Gumpathon race team have been invited to join The Santa Monica Pier Route 66 celebrations for Veterans Day, and a part of the event today will be dedicated to The Gumpathon. The runners will arrive at the pier between 10:30-10:45 a.m. PST.

**TO PARTICIPATE IN RACE END ACTIVITIES:** Reporters can participate in The Gumpathon closing events at the Santa Monica Pier and be connected with The Gumpathon runners on November 11, 2010 for in-person interviews by contacting Claire Worsley at (862) 571-1345 or sending an email to [lucy@ktbpr.com](mailto:lucy@ktbpr.com) or [sam@ktbpr.com](mailto:sam@ktbpr.com).

### **TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE GUMPATHON**

Tell your readers how to 'Donate Now' by clicking on the American flag at The Gumpathon homepage - <http://www.thegumpathon.com/index.php>. Interested parties will be directed to the CAFAmerica online credit card donation button where they can contribute to The Gumpathon Fund at CAFAmerica.

**TEXT TO DONATE:** \*\$10 will be added to your mobile phone bill/ deducted from your prepaid account. Message and Data Rates May Apply. Text GUMP to 50555. Full Terms: [mGive.org/T](http://mGive.org/T) .

US Patrons to The Gumpathon include General Al Gray USMC (Ret), 29<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps and chairman of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. Other patrons of The Gumpathon include Major General Gary Robinson, Chief of Staff Capability, Royal Marines, General Sir Richard Dannatt, Former Chief of the General Staff and now Governor of the Tower of London.

### **ABOUT CAFAMERICA**

Charities Aid Foundation America (CAFAmerica) was founded in 1992, and is a member organization of the United Kingdom based Charities Aid Foundation international network of offices, which provides charitable financial services to individuals, global corporations, charities, and foundations. CAFAmerica is dedicated to expanding borderless charitable giving by providing guidance and international grant making solutions for donors and charities. Together with its UK subsidiary for dual US/UK taxpayers, the CAF American Donor Fund, CAFAmerica makes over \$40 million in grants a year to charities in 76 countries around the world. CAFAmerica's range of charitable solutions include: Donor Advised Gifts, Donor Advised Funds, Matching Donor Advised Funds, Designated Funds, bequest planning and 'Friends of' Charity Funds.

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