



Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund
Wounded Warrior Center • Bldg H49 • Camp Pendleton, CA 92055 Phone: 760-725-3680, Fax: 760-725-3685, Web:
www.semperfund.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Specially adapted vehicle to be presented to paralyzed Marine
in time for the holidays**

Marine Staff Sergeant Scott Nicholas and his family to receive van on December 15

Tampa, FL – Just in time for the holidays, a Marine paralyzed from the shoulders down will receive the gift of mobility. A specially adapted Ride-Away van will be presented to active duty Marine Staff Sergeant (SSgt.) Scott Nicholas and his family at the Ride-Away Handicap Equipment office in Tampa this Thursday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m.

SSgt Scott Nicholas, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, was paralyzed in a vehicle accident in November, 2010 in Jacksonville, North Carolina. For the past year, his wife Yolanda and family have been at his side while he has gone through rehabilitation and recovery. Scott is currently receiving therapy at the Tampa Veterans Administration hospital.

Special adaptations to the Chrysler 2011 Touring van include a low-floor conversion that will allow Scott to access the vehicle with his wheelchair and ride in the passenger side position. The vehicle is being made possible through a \$12,700 Adaptive Transportation grant from the Semper Fi Fund, a grant from the Veterans Administration, and a special Veterans discount from Ride-Away. Additionally, special administrative and logistical support was provided by Help Our Military Heroes (HOMH).

Thanks also to Ride-Away's generosity, the Nicholas family received a temporary low-floor adapted van during the six months production time of their new adaptive vehicle.

SSgt Nicholas will receive the van with his wife Yolanda and their three children on Thursday. Also in attendance will be Semper Fi Fund Case Manager Sheri Holden, HOMH Chairman of the Board Ted Hollander, President of Ride-Away Handicap Equipment Mark Lore, and General Manager of Ride-Away of Tampa Jim Scruggs .

- **Who:** SSgt Scott Nicholas and his family; and members of SFF, Ride-Away and HOMH
- **What:** Media availability for presentation of a specially adapted van to SSgt Scott Nicholas
- **When:** Thursday December 15, 2011 – 10:00 am
- **Where:** Ride-Away Handicap Equipment Co., 8706D E. Broadway Ave., Tampa, FL
- **Web:** The Semper Fi Fund: (www.semperfund.org) , Ride-Away Corp (www.ride-away.com) & Help Our Military Heroes: (www.helpourmilitaryheroes.org)

The Semper Fi Fund helps fund specially adapted vehicles through its Adaptive Transportation grants. These grants are provided to service members who have lost limbs, or has been catastrophically injured in combat or training, or as in SSgt Nicholas' case, as a result an accident while on active duty. Modified transportation is a vital component to a successful rehabilitation for someone who is severely injured. It is key to ensuring that appointments and therapies are easily attended, and more freedom of mobility is given to the service member and their families.



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As of November, 2011, the Semper Fi Fund has provided more than 1,700 grants totaling almost \$6 million towards the costs of purchasing or modifying vehicles for our catastrophically injured and critically ill service members.

ABOUT THE SEMPER FI FUND (SSF): The Semper Fi Fund (SFF)– (www.semperfund.org) is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance and quality of life solutions for Marines and Sailors, as well as members of the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard who serve in support of Marine forces, when they become injured in post 9-11 combat or training operations, or they face life threatening illness or injury. Our fund provides relief to qualified Servicemembers and their families for immediate financial needs that arise during hospitalization and recovery, as well as perpetuating needs such as home modifications, customized transportation and specialized equipment.

The Semper Fi Fund has awarded over 37,000 financial grants totaling more than \$56 million in grants given to our injured and critically ill service members & their families!

The SFF was founded by Karen Guenther, a registered nurse and spouse of an active duty Marine who had first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by wounded Marines and Sailors returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. She, along with a dedicated group of military spouses established Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund in May of 2004.

ABOUT RIDE-AWAY: Ride-Away is one of America's largest providers of modified vehicles and adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Ride-Away products are used by individuals with minor to profound disabilities requiring additional assistance while traveling and range from hand controls and lifts to raised door and lowered floor vehicle modifications. Founded in 1986, Ride-Away's 12 East Coast locations are committed to offering a broad selection of specialized vehicles and services to meet the needs of every customer. All of Ride-Away's locations are also QAP (Quality Assurance Program) certified through the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA), resulting in Ride-Away being held to the highest standards in the industry. Ride-Away also gives back to the community by contributing 10% of its earnings to various non-profit organizations throughout their communities and also has over a 95% volunteerism rate with their employees. For more information, call (888)-RIDE-AWAY (888-743-3292) or visit our website at www.Ride-Away.com <<http://www.Ride-Away.com>> .

ABOUT HELP OUR MILITARY HEROES: Help Our Military Heroes, Inc., (HOMH) (<http://www.helpourmilitaryheroes.org/> <<http://www.helpourmilitaryheroes.org/>>) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing the military wounded with fully equipped handicapped vehicles. HOMH is donation-driven with 100% of funding going toward purchasing special-needs vehicles and awarding them to military heroes in need. HOMH recognizes that every case is different and works with each individual in need to modify a vehicle specific to his or her injuries. HOMH was co-founded in 2009 by Laurie and Ted Hollander and Marybeth Vandergrift. Our Executive Board is comprised of Veterans, Educators, Athletes, Lawyers, and Business Executives all who all come together with one goal: to make life better for our wounded soldiers.