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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and SALUTE INC. Partner to Enhance U.S. Military Rehabilitation Experience**

**CHICAGO**, (June 4, 2007)– The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), the nation’s leading physical medicine and rehabilitation hospital, announced today a unique partnership with SALUTE Inc., a non-profit advocacy organization, to provide necessary support and assistance to military families of injured U.S. soldiers being treated at RIC.

As a designated rehabilitation provider for U.S. service men and women with severe injuries, RIC will deliver rehabilitation care to injured military personnel while SALUTE Inc. will offer necessary support services and assistance to the families that are at RIC helping their wounded service members during their rehabilitation process.

Ed Edmundson, father of active-duty Army Srgt. Eric Edmundson, who is being treated for a brain injury sustained while fighting in Iraq, has experienced first-hand the taxing social and fiscal demands that come with relocating with a loved one during a long-term hospital stay.

“Because RIC is the #1 rated hospital in delivering rehabilitation, my family, Eric and I thought it was best that Eric be at RIC to have the opportunity to receive the best care available. This required a member of our family to be with Eric in Chicago, so I resigned my job to support my son in his recovery,” said Ed Edmundson, of New Bern, N.C. “The generous community support from organizations like SALUTE Inc., have allowed me and my family to be here and help and support Eric while RIC’s medical team helps him get back his life and his independence.”

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SALUTE Inc. has created the *Nightingale Program*, a fund specifically designed to provide financial assistance and support services for expenses that a family undergoes while in Chicago that will allow these families to focus on providing support for their loved one during the rehabilitation process.

To ensure the family's focus is on their wounded family member, SALUTE's *Nightingale Program* will provide financial assistance with the following:

- Needs Assessment
- Supplemental housing/moving costs
- Laptop computers to help families stay connected
- Air Travel/Ground Transportation
- Personal Needs

"While RIC provides the best rehabilitation care in the country, SALUTE's goal is to ensure the family's focus on healing the spirit of their wounded family member," said Will Beiersdorf, Co-Fonder and President, SALUTE Inc. "We're honored to provide the necessary assistance to these families with injured loved ones."

RIC was designated as a rehabilitation care provider for U.S. military personnel with severe injuries in March 2007. The Institute utilizes a unique care-team approach that taps the deep experience and collective expertise of its excellent clinical care, innovative research facilities and depth of specialized services for patients with severe injuries such as traumatic brain injury.

"RIC is honored to extend its world-class clinical care to the increasing number of service people who are returning from the war with severe injuries," said Joanne C. Smith, president and CEO, RIC. "While RIC's unique model of care is focused on restoring the overall health and independence of America's traumatically injured service men and women, we're pleased that SALUTE Inc. will enrich the breadth of supportive service surrounding our care, and extend to service member families, as well."

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# Press Release



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## **About The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago**

The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago is dedicated to helping people with all levels and types of physical disabilities live a fulfilling life. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked RIC the “#1 Rehabilitation Hospital in America” every year since 1991. RIC operates a flagship hospital in Chicago as well as a network of DayRehabCenters and outpatient centers located throughout the city and surrounding suburbs. It also maintains strategic alliances with other healthcare providers throughout the state of Illinois and north central Indiana. For more information, visit the RIC website at [www.ric.org](http://www.ric.org).

## **About SALUTE Inc.**

SALUTE Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Founded in 2004, SALUTE’s goal is to increase awareness of issues and challenges facing both active and veteran U.S. military personnel and their families. SALUTE, Inc. provides direct assistance and support to eligible service personnel injured during their service and families who have lost a loved-one in a current conflict. Additionally, SALUTE, Inc. provides direct support to Illinois veteran’s homes and hospitals for those who served in past conflicts. For more information, visit [www.saluteinc.org](http://www.saluteinc.org).

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