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April 23, 2015

Steven Lewandowski
1442 Camino Del Mar, Ste 207
Del Mar, CA 92014

Re: Endorsement of Veteran's Research Alliance, and Operation Veteran Family Center.

On behalf of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to endorse the Veteran's Research Alliance, and Operation Veteran Family Center. With nearly 3,000 members representing 400,000 employees, the Chamber is dedicated to growing commerce in the San Diego region and appreciates the substantial contribution of the military community to our economy. San Diego has long been closely tied with the military, and that relationship is both a point of pride, and a major economic factor in the region. The work of the Veteran's Research Alliance would help both those military veteran's suffering from PTSD, and their family, transition back to civilian life. In turn, this will help create strong families, many of whom will stay in San Diego.

Returning home after active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, thousands of Veterans are carrying invisible injuries in the form of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and other military-related health conditions. These conditions, largely unseen by the general population, can take an enormous toll on family members. Many spouses and children report mental as well as physical ailments stemming from the invisible health conditions carried home by their loved ones. In essence, they can become the "collateral damage" of our nation's conflicts.

Resources exist for active military personnel, as well as Veterans, however, there are few to no resources available to their family members. Operation Veteran Family Center aims to solve this very problem. Through an innovative partnership between the Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and San Diego VA Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health, the solution is envisioned to create a facility and provide: research, clinical resources, community-based services and more. Providing a resource to fill this void, and better serve those who have served us.

For these reasons the Chamber, and myself endorse the Veteran's Research Alliance's Operation Veteran Family Center. With any further questions, you can contact Chanelle Hawken, Vice President of Public Policy at (610) 544-1365 or chawken@sdchamber.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sanders', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jerry Sanders
President & CEO
Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce