VALOur-IT 2009: Itâ€™s That Time Again!

Description

This is year 4 for the Veteranâ€™s Day fund drive to raise money for the Soldierâ€™s Angels Voice Activated Laptops for Our Injured Troops (VALOur-IT) project.

This project came about as a result of one then Army CAPT, now Major, a blogger, being hit by an IED and ending up in Walter Reed, and being asked by a rep from Soldierâ€™s Angels if they could get him anything. â€œA laptop, so I can keep blogging.â€• Well, from one used laptop from eBay, the addition of Dragon Naturally Speaking from a gracious and anonymous donation, then the suggestion from one of his readers about wider applicability, came the program that has helped thousands of wounded warriors with sight or hand mobility issues.

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In fact, if youâ€™ll be at BlogExpo in Las Vegas (10/13-15), you can most likely meet Chuck Z, â€œpatient 0!â€• BTW, he could use a little help getting there: See this post of his.

Beginning last year, VALOur-IT began providing GPS units (helps those with short term memory issues as a result of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI from IEDs), and Nintendo Wiis (gets them to do physical therapy like things, because they love to play games)

This year, the drive will run from 10/26 to 11/11.

Weâ€™re looking for bloggers and websites to promote the drive, and those who wold be so kind to exploit their email lists to help the cause. Effort? Punch our some emails with links to the donate site, and make some posts. Whip up the crowd, ask for a few $. Not hard, but worthwhile.

My allegiance is to Team Navy, but know these things:

- All money goes into one fund to support this project
- Funding only pays for the laptops, GPS units or Wiis, or their transportationâ€¦nothing more
- The competitive nature of we former service members allows us to act like we did once before in our lives
- The project affects more than just the â€œnowâ€• for the people it helps. It gives them a leg up on when they leave the service with disabilities, as they can operate computers, despite having had some modifications to their lives

The projectâ€™s blog is here, if youâ€™d like to dig in and see what the program has been and is doing now.

Thanks in advance. Please spread the word and leave a comment if youâ€™d like to participate this year. Iâ€™ll get you to the Team Navy leaderâ€¦:) Well, maybe to the other service team leaders, if I must.

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