

Military medicine center to open at UCLA

By Susan Abram, Los Angeles Daily News
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The first university-based military medicine center on the West Coast will launch at UCLA, thanks to an initial \$2 million gift from two sons who want to support their father's dream of helping servicemen and women, school officials will announce today.

Called the Ronald A. Katz Center for Collaborative Military Medicine at UCLA, the facility will work with the U.S. military to find better ways to care for the nation's veterans, officials said.

The center will help physicians and researchers form partnerships with specialty-care experts and military hospitals, said Ronald Katz, who, as a board member with the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, founded Operation Mend, a program that works with Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System to provide free reconstructive surgery to injured veterans.

In addition to housing Operation Mend, the center will expand and provide additional research and services for traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress and family support.

"UCLA, as an institution, takes great pride in its support and clinical care for injured service members and veterans, along with its continuing research and innovation in the interdisciplinary areas of battlefield technology, health care, bioengineering and telecommunication," Katz said in a statement.

The \$2 million gift was from Todd and Randy Katz and their families, who also share in a belief that veterans need more health services, Katz said.

"This is a magnificent gift in honor of a magnificent supporter, Ronald A. Katz, who shares UCLA's deep appreciation and dedication to the men and women who serve our country," said UCLA Chancellor Gene Block.

Peter Chiarelli, a retired four-star general who was the 32nd vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army from August 2008 through January 2012, will serve as executive director.