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Murphy's Walking Man Ric Ryan To Attend New York Veteran's Day Parade With Operation Mend

New York, NY...We are excited to have Ric Ryan, a Vietnam Veteran and supporter of Operation Mend join us at the Veteran's Day Parade in New York City on Tuesday! Support Ric, Operation Mend and Veterans by posting a photo or video of you and/or your friends waving on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Vine using hashtag #wave4operationmend.



About Operation Mend

UCLA Operation Mend is a groundbreaking program that provides returning military personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan -- and service members wounded in training for battle -- who suffer from severe facial and other medical injuries access to the nation's top plastic and reconstructive surgeons, as well as comprehensive medical and mental-health support for the wounded and their families. It was established in 2007 through a partnership envisioned by Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center Board and Executive Committee member Ron A. Katz and his (now deceased) wife Maddie.

In a partnership with Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), a leading burn and rehabilitation center in San Antonio, Texas, the V.A. Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, and UCLA Health System, Operation Mend started with facial reconstruction. The program has since expanded in order to optimize healing-body, mind, and spirit. In addition to plastic and reconstructive surgery, mental-health support (for warriors and their families), orthopaedic reconstruction for severely damaged limbs, urologic treatment, otolaryngological care, the examination and treatment of reproductive issues, repair of airways, and design of new prosthetic ears are provided.

"It is a privilege for UCLA Medical Center to assist our country's men and women in the military," said Dr. David T. Feinberg, President of UCLA Health System and CEO of UCLA Hospital System. "We are honored to partner with Brooke Army Medical Center to help heal several of America's wounded warriors."

The program is currently funded through an existing grant from the Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF) via the California Community Foundation, along with important individual donor support.