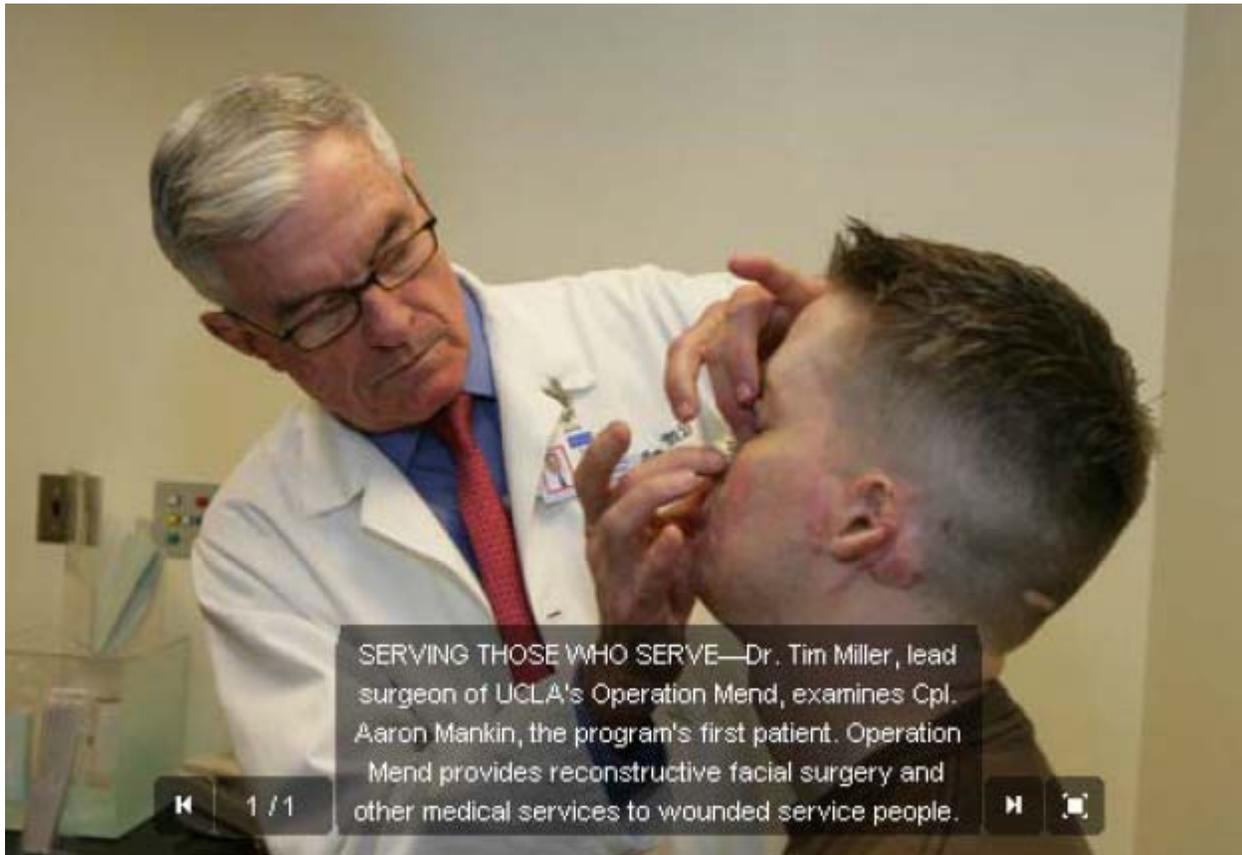


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UCLA, Operation Mend Help Heal Scars Of War

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A partnership between UCLA Health System, Brooke Army Medical Center and VA-Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System is helping servicemen and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thus far, 52 combat veterans have been treated at UCLA.

“It is a privilege for UCLA Health System to help our country’s men and women in the military,” says Dr. David T. Feinberg, president of UCLA Health System. “We are honored to partner with Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) to help heal America’s wounded warriors.”

The surgeries are led by Dr. Timothy Miller, UCLA reconstructive and plastic surgeon and a Vietnam veteran. “These service members have given a great sacrifice to our country,” Miller says. “I feel it is my obligation to help them in any way I possibly can ... and to the extent that I can, I am grateful.”

Some of the clinical services provided include: facial reconstruction, hand surgery, maxillofacial surgery, urology, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, upper extremity transplantation, traumatic brain injury research, advanced diagnostics, suicide prevention, and FOCUS (Families OverComing Under Stress).

In addition, The Operation Mend Buddy Family program matches each Operation Mend participant with a family living close to UCLA.

“Our Operation Mend Buddy Families open their hearts and homes to our visiting service members to make them feel more comfortable during their stays in L.A.,” notes Beverly Hills resident Dana Katz, who serves as the program’s Families Coordinator.

“For the Buddy Families, this is a hands-on opportunity to make a difference in the life of someone who has suffered great injury through their service to our country, and it is a learning opportunity for parents and children alike, bringing the reality of war closer to home,” says Katz.

The Operation Mend team and the servicemen and women treated through the program will be honored during the UCLA vs Cal game on Oct. 29 at the Rose Bowl.

Operation Mend was launched with the help of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center board member and philanthropist Ronald A. Katz, who recognized that providing care to injured service members need not be limited to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Armed Services.

Operation Mend, which depends on philanthropic donations from Americans across the country, aims to serve as a model for other medical institutions interested in helping wounded service members.

For more information, visit www.operationmend.ucla.edu.