

RESOLUTION

FOCUS ON FLORIDA FISHER HOUSE PROGRAMS

Whereas, approximately 255,000 US Troops have been deployed to the Gulf region for the Iraqi War since March 2003; and

Whereas, more than 21,419 United States Troops have been wounded in Iraq since early 2003; twenty percent of which are serious brain or spinal injuries; and

Whereas, the Fisher House Program, a home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care, at little or no cost to the military family, supports the American military in their time of need beyond that normally provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, the Fisher House Program currently has homes in 15 States and depends on volunteers and voluntary support to enhance daily operations and program expansion; and

Whereas, the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization under section 501©3 of the IRS code, builds new houses and assists in the coordination of private support and encourages public support for the homes; and

Whereas, two existing Fisher Houses and two planned Fisher Houses are located in the State of Florida; and

Whereas, the Program of Work of the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences focuses on “Helping Florida Families”; and

Whereas, the members of the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences bring people together to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences endorses the Fisher House Program; and be it further

Resolved that the Florida Association of Family and Consumer Sciences include the Fisher House Program in the State Program of Work for the next five years, 2007-2012.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the Iraq war began (3/19/03) there have been approximately 255,000 US Troops deployed to the Gulf region. Since that time, more than 21,419 US American Troops have been wounded; 20% of which are serious brain or spinal injuries. (This total excludes psychological injuries.)

The Fisher House Program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times – during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury. A Fisher House is a temporary residence and is not a treatment facility, hospice or counseling center.

There are currently 23 Fisher Houses, (located in California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Europe). These houses are on 17 military installation and 6 VA medical centers; one new house is under construction; and, 3 houses have been approved for construction to begin within the next 2-3 years.

Annually the Fisher House program serves more than 8,500 families, and have made available more than two million days of lodging to family members since the program originated in 1990 with Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher donating numerous Fisher Houses. Based on a comparison of fees at a Fisher House (the average charge is less than \$10 per family per day, with many locations offering rooms at no cost) with commercial lodging facilities in the same area, it is estimated that families have saved more than \$60 million by staying at a Fisher House since the program began.

Fisher Houses have full-time salaried managers, but depend on volunteers and voluntary support to enhance daily operations and program expansion.

For further information about the program, contact: Executive Director, Fisher House Foundation, Inc., 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600, Rockville, MD 20852. Phone: 888-294-8560. E-Mail: info@fisherhouse.org. Internet: www.fisherhouse.org

By endorsing and embracing the Fisher House program our Association will assist in bringing people together to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities.