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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **AMPAT Mission to Washington, DC: Help Our Veterans**

On Tuesday, March 9, 2010, the representatives from American Patriot Heroes Fund (AMPAT) loaded up their vehicles and headed to Washington, DC. for a full day at Walter Reed Army Hospital, where they met with hundreds of wounded veterans and staff, and then headed to Capitol Hill with wounded Veteran Corporal Christopher Levi of Holbrook, NY for a face to face sit down with Congressman Steve Israel and Congressman Peter King.

AMPAT Board Members, Vincent Trimarco, Jr., David Zere and Bill Fries, spent the entire day visiting with injured soldiers just off the battlefield in Afghanistan and dozens of other soldiers who have been at Water Reed Hospital for up to 5 years. "It was an incredible experience, the level of care and pride by the staff was absolutely phenomenal and the soldiers in recovery were amazing individuals, sharing their personal stories of sacrifice. Everyone soldier we met conveyed their deep sense of honor and it as very emotional." said David Zere, Executive Director of AMPAT. AMPAT Founder Vincent Trimarco, Jr. added, "It changes your whole perspective when you spend time with these individuals. Their sense of honor and love for this country is undeniable. The men and women in uniform are truly special and are selfless in their mission."

AMPAT donated over \$6,000 in IPODS and Athletic apparel to the troops there and we would like to give a special thanks to PC Richards for donating 30 IPOD Shuffles for our journey. Our hats go off to Justin Restivo, AMPAT Director of Client Relations and US Marine for coordinating the production and assembly of all the athletic apparel and gifts that we transported to Washington DC.

Our host for the day was Corporal Christopher Levi, a Holbrook native, who received massive injuries in Iraq when his middle truck in a convoy hit an IED. He is a triple amputee and has spent the last 5 years in and out of Walter Reed and is almost ready to come home. Zere continued, "I don't think I've ever met a sharper and nicer person than Chris. His outlook on life is inspiring and the next time you are about to complain for having to walk to your car in the rain, just remember the immeasurable sacrifices of our armed forces in order for us to keep our lifestyle."

The AMPAT crew took Chris Levi and his health aides for a very special one on one visit with both Congressman Peter King and Congressman Steve Israel. This was arranged by AMPAT Senior Director for Government Relations Bill Fries and was also a memorable experience. AMPAT members and Chris Levi addressed the Congressman on current veteran related issues of the day and our hats go off to the congressmen and their generous staff for being so accommodating and intent on veterans causes.

Attached Photo: Counter Clockwise from Peter King, AMPAT Board Member Bill Fires, Corporal Christopher Levi, Congressman Steve Israel, AMPAT Founder Vincent Trimarco, Jr., Walter Reed staff members, and David Zere, Executive Director of AMPAT.