EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1/20/15
HB 221

Representative MacDonald, members of the committee, ladies and gentlemen...

Thank you for your time this afternoon and for considering HB221.

Every day all across this country thousands of firefighters and law enforcement officers put themselves in harms way in order that the citizens of their communities, states and country may live their lives knowing that there is a barrier between them and lawlessness... knowing that there is help when they need it... knowing that they are not alone.

When these heroes are critically injured in the line of duty, resulting in permanent disability and loss of career, most departments across the country have no protocol for handling long term disability. Unfortunately, many are dismissed/retired and forgotten about while they and their families fight a battle to find their new normal. These public servants are wired to serve. Part of what made them excellent at what they did... their ability to take charge of situations and solve problems... haunts them when they are helpless to even provide for their families.

My husband is a Marine and retired law enforcement officer. We fully understand this commitment to serve... and the sudden loss of ability to do so. He was critically injured during a car stop in Billings almost 13 years ago. While his injuries prevented him from returning to work as a police officer, they did not prevent him from longing to serve... he's just wired that way. Since 2010 we have been working with Hunting for Heroes to reach out to others who have been critically injured and who are scattered throughout the country. You see, there is a network of organizations and programs to reach out to our injured military veterans... as there well should be. There is a network of organizations that reach out to the families of first responders killed in the line of duty... as there well should be. However, there is an astounding lack of support for these heroes who are disabled in the line of duty. H4H is the only organization of its kind filling that need.

Unfortunately, these heroes far too often feel alone and abandoned by those that they served. They struggle with their disabilities, loss of income, loss of the ability to provide for their families, and loss of hope. The abandonment that these officers, and families, feel is not all that unlike that felt by our returning Viet Nam vets, particularly as law enforcement officers are portrayed as villains across so much of our media these days.

H4H works to rebuild hope and provide a network of support for these heroes, and a big part of that takes place through hunting and fishing events. Last year we helped them put on the first annual VOWS marriage retreat for injured officers and spouses in Belfry. We brought 8 couples to Montana from across the country for a week of workshops, networking, encouragement and outdoor activities such as fishing and horseback riding. Events like these are life changing for our attendees... and H4H is committed to forming long term relationships and resources to follow up with these families.

HB221 would help us help these heroes by providing complimentary fishing access for these type of events, but more than that... HB221 puts Montana on record as supporting these men and women who have sacrificed so much for those they served. We have representatives and board members across the country standing by to present similar legislation in their states... with Montana having the opportunity to lead the way. This is no small bit of encouragement to not only those who have been injured serving, but also to those who currently stand the line putting themselves, and their families, in harms way to be there when we need them.

Thank you for considering this bill. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the heroes we serve, Hunting for Heroes, etc.

My name is Brantley Cargill. I am second generation law enforcement, having grown up watching my father put on the uniform every day and knowing that was what I wanted to do. I hope my story gives you a small insight into the mind of a disabled law enforcement officer.

I joined the Opelika (Alabama) Police Department in 1996. I loved waking up each day and putting on the uniform. I had such pride in the badge and all that it stood for. We were the good guys. We were who you called when you needed help.

At 1:29am on September 19, 2003, that all changed. I responded to a domestic violence call around the corner from the house I grew up in. I could write about that call for pages, but I will sum it up in a few sentences. My lieutenant was shot in the face, I was shot in the top of the head, and I took the life of the shooter. I was treated at the hospital for a gunshot wound. While that wound healed, the emotional scars were never addressed. One month later, I went to the department and told them I was having a problem processing all that had happened. The exact words I was told were "In my day, we would just suck it up". So I took 30 days off and tried to "just suck it up". I was awarded a Purple Heart and Medal of Honor for my actions/injury in the shooting.

Over the years, the emotional toll got worse, and then the physical symptoms began to appear. I was diagnosed with PTSD in 2004 and began treatment privately. In 2012, I saw a neurologist who during our initial consult saw major signs of brain injury in physical symptoms I was having. I was sent for a CT scan and it was confirmed that I had suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury as well as had several strokes. When I brought this up to my department, I was told that the statute of limitations on workman's comp had passed, and they would not offer any medical or mental appointments or help. I realized at this point that I was no longer able to police the way the job should be done, and my doctor put me out on indefinite leave to try and help me the best way they could, without support from the department. In August 2012, I was medically retired at the rank of Sargent after 16 years of service. There was no contact at all from my chief or staff officers from the first day I was out until my retirement. No acknowledgment at all of the price I had paid for the department.

PTSD in law enforcement is a lonely diagnosis. Add Traumatic Brain Injury into the mix and you have a hopeless feeling. All I needed from my department was support.

All I ever wanted to do was police work. I was good at my job, and was proud of my service to my community. All I want now is for my department to acknowledge that PTSD and TBI are catastrophic injuries that can be career ending. In the absence of that, having a network that supports me and my family has brought new hope. I have attended hunts with Hunting for Heroes and have volunteered to help with other events. These experiences are an incredible resource that I wish we had found sooner. Your support for what they are doing is priceless.

Sincerely,

Brantley Cargill
910 Timberline North
Waverly Hall, GA 31831
334.740.0964

Ladd & Heidi Paulson
PO Box 22092
Billings, MT 59104

January 20, 2015

RE: Ladd Paulson
Position: Billings Police Department – Motor Patrol
Date of Accident: July 6, 2002

Representative MacDonald, Representatives and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of my husband, who served as a police officer for the City of Billings for 13 years prior to being hit while performing a car stop on duty nearly 13 years ago. Ladd was a field training officer, advanced motor training officer, law enforcement representative on the Montana Motorcycle Riders Safety Committee, elementary school adopt-a-cop (volunteer) and domestic violence task force member. During his law enforcement career, he received the Gold Medal for Courage. the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart for his commitment to serve and protect. He served our community sacrificially and bravely, just as he had served our country as a US Marine prior to becoming a police officer. Ladd's life of public service ran from the time he was 17 years old, until he was forced to retire at the age of 36. That is who he was. That is the heart of who he still is. All he ever wanted to do was make this world a better place… to serve and protect.

On July 6, 2002, he was in the process of pulling over a suspect, when an impaired driver failed to yield to him and plowed into him with a pickup traveling over 50 mph. It is nothing short of a miracle that he survived. His recovery was long and painful, but he fought hard to get back to his place of service. When it became apparent that he would not be able to return to patrol work, he was placed on disability retirement… at the age of 36, he lost his career and a large part of his identity. He also lost over ½ of his income, as retirement came at 50% of his current wage, further reduced by the cost of medical insurance which comes out of his retirement.

Our kids were young, just 6 and 10, when this happened. He wanted to provide for our family, to serve his community, to take care of people and to fix things… the helplessness lead to hopelessness, aloneness and depression. We know personally how having a committed volunteer network like what Hunting for Heroes provides would have changed our lives and helped us all work through the loss to help us find our "new normal." As Montanans, we know and appreciate the value of our great outdoors and the healing power of getting out to enjoy that. That is why we are committed to reaching out to others who are walking this road. This is why we know that our state making the effort to acknowledge these heroes and show appreciation for their sacrifice will encourage them and help them find their new normal.

Thank you for taking time to consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

Heidi Paulson
406-672-8310
heidi@dependence-day.com

Name: Scott Ragar
Position: Sergeant. Keokuk Police Department
Date of Accident: February 4, 2010

My husband, Scott, had been a decorated police officer for 26 years prior to his injury. While making an arrest he was assaulted and shoved off a curb with his head taking the impact of himself and the person he was arresting. This resulted in him being knocked unconscious as well as temporarily losing the function of his arms, hands and vision. He experiences seizures, cognitive difficulties, debilitating head aches, vertigo, hypertension and depression on a daily basis. Ultimately being diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and being deemed permanently disabled from any line of work.

Our story is not the only story like this, as you should be well aware. My husband was hurt while protecting the citizens of his community. Now I ask how the community, city, state is protecting him and others like him? Not only is there the ongoing struggle of his day to day health, there is now a constant worry of how ends are going to be met financially.

Scott was invited to a Hunting for Heroes turkey hunt in Missouri where he met a network of other injured officers, families and others who volunteer to support injured officers. Getting outdoors and meeting others who truly understand what it is like to lose so much is an invaluable resource and step in the healing process. Even though he has lost so much, no value can be placed on hope being restored. Unless one has been down this road, they cannot understand the value of others acknowledging your sacrifice.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. It is greatly appreciated.

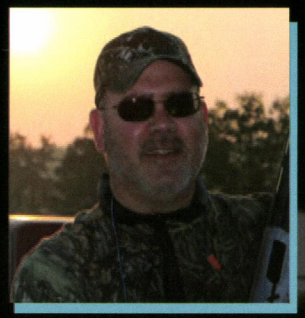
Sincerely,

Laurie Ragar

TESTIMONIALS

"You guys made me feel like a cop again."
Mark Bradley,
Princeton, West Virginia

"I have not seen him smile like that since our honeymoon."
Elizabeth Haman,
Spouse of a Hero



"You have motivated me to do more than I have been doing, thank you."
Scott Ragar,
Keokuk, Iowa

"This was a life-changing event."
Parent of a Hero

Hunting for Heroes

ARE YOU WILLING
TO BE A HERO?
DONATE TODAY

huntingforheroes.org

Join Our Mailing List

Text "H4H" to 22828

8426 Clint Drive, Suite 353
Belton, MO. 64012
(816) 812-7991

H4H

HUNTING FOR HEROES

"TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN"
huntingforheroes.org

OUR MISSION

Hunting for Heroes provides resources, such as recreational therapy and counseling, to disabled law enforcement officers who were injured in the line of duty. Hunting for Heroes provides a hunting camp environment where disabled police officers and their families can connect with other families that have suffered life-altering injuries.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Over the last two years I have completed a lot of research and interviewed dozens of disabled officers, each of them expressed one common theme… brotherhood. Every injured officer I have had the pleasure to meet all say they miss "being a cop," they miss "being a part of the law enforcement family." As a fellow officer myself, I know this is not a job, it's not a career it's my identity.

As we all have been to law enforcement funerals and watched our brothers die in vain, we always remember them as heroes. However, for those who are injured they are often overwhelmed with support. But as time passes on, so does that support. Our disabled heroes often feel left behind and forgotten. They feel like they are left out of the "brotherhood" due to their disability.

We at H4H are working every day to strengthen the sense of brotherhood for our disabled brothers and sisters who have given up their careers to protect our communities. Now it's our turn to give them the support they need as they are living with their sacrifice.

Please join me and the other volunteers and adopt our motto "taking care of our own."

H4H
HUNTING FOR HEROES

Chris Allen
President, Hunting for Heroes
callen@huntingforheroes.org

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

DONATE!

We are an organization operated exclusively by volunteers, many are active duty law enforcement officers and we have no avenue to generate income to support our cause. We are only funded by the benevolence of the communities that we swore to protect. As a volunteer organization you can rest easy knowing that every dollar donated is a direct investment in the future recovery of these injured officers.

VOLUNTEER!

Do you have an hour a week? Do you have a special skill or a business contact that would be interested in Hunting for Heroes Mission? If you are interested in honoring these heroes by helping us in our mission please visit the website and sign up as a volunteer.

SIGN UP TODAY

FUNDRAISING

We are in constant need of income to purchase adaptive equipment and other items to ensure that our heroes have the most comfortable and enjoyable outdoors experience. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser on behalf of Hunting for Heroes please contact our President for ideas, tips or questions. We have found that communities big and small are supportive of our cause and will rally to show their support for those who keep their communities safe.

PROGRAMS

HUNTING CAMPS

At our camps we connect disabled officers and their families with other families in similar circumstances. They are able to create lifelong friendships and grow their support network as they travel down the long road of recovery. They also gain strength and courage as they share stories of personal struggles and perseverance as they discuss their recoveries and the daily challenges they face. They learn to enjoy the outdoors and a variety of activities that they can perform while overcoming their disability. We expose them to a whole new set of activities that they can share with the entire family. We also provide and demonstrate a variety of adaptive equipment to make their travel into the outdoors safer and more enjoyable.

PEER SUPPORT

As we, the founders of Hunting for Heroes, are law enforcement officers. We understand the challenges brought on by this profession. We know that we must always appear to be a rock of stability both emotionally and physically even while in the face of danger. We must ignore our emotions as we see death and destruction before us. The image of a police officer is one who must never waiver and we understand that stigma. At H4H camps, we allow officers and their families the freedom to let their guard down and share their difficult situations as we all contribute to help them overcome the struggles they are facing both emotionally and physically. At our camps everyone feels like family… because we are.