



## CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SENATOR ART TORRES (RET.), CHAIRMAN  
1388 Sutter, Suite 805 • San Francisco, CA 94109-5453  
Telephone 415-749-2795 • Fax 415-749-6987

October 12, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to recognize an exceptional organization, Yellow Ribbon America (YRA). Over the past three years, YRA has created and implemented outstanding programs that have proven extremely effective in assisting California's military soldiers and their families.

My initial involvement with YRA was with "Operation Christmas for our Troops" program. This highly successful program was coordinated with the California State Legislature and provided 375 drop-off locations statewide. I attended a press conference with the California Republican Party Chairman and numerous state Legislators, both Democrat and Republican. Through YRA's tireless efforts, over forty-thousand toys were collected and sent to military families across the state.

YRA organizes local businesses, residents, churches and community groups to support deployed military members and their families in communities throughout California. Examples of YRA's efforts range from addressing an individual military family's need of emergency assistance to arranging fundraisers for a unit's welcome home event. YRA's commitment to addressing the needs of severely injured soldiers continues to be demonstrated through their latest program, the Home-Improvement Program. YRA organizes fundraising events to assist in making necessary modifications to the homes of our injured veterans. Examples of these modifications include installation of handicap ramps, widening of hallways and making bathrooms wheelchair-accessible.

I am proud to be associated with this fine organization. It is my hope that every American would be eager and willing to work with Yellow Ribbon America for the benefit of our military men, women and their families.

Sincerely,

Senator Art Torres (Ret.)  
Chairman