RECIPIENTS SELECTED FOR 2009 "NEWMAN'S OWN" AWARD

ADMIRAL MIKE MULLEN, CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF PRESENTS AWARDS IN PENTAGON CEREMONY

Admiral Mike Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, provided remarks at the tenth annual Newman's Own Award Ceremony at the Pentagon on September 10, 2009, as awards totaling $75,000 were presented to eleven volunteer organizations for their innovative programs to improve military quality of life.

USA Together was judged as the best entry and received a $15,000 award. USA Together is a Craig's List-like web site where qualified injured service members and their direct families can post unmet needs and receive assistance from individuals, businesses, community groups or other Veteran Service Organizations who want to help.

Newman's Own, Fisher House Foundation, and Military Times Media Group sponsored the competition, which seeks to reward ingenuity and innovation for programs that benefit service men and women and their families. The challenge is straightforward*: "Present an innovative plan to improve the quality of life for the military community and receive funding to carry out the plans."*

Admiral Mullen was joined by Tom Indoe, President of Newman's Own; Fisher House Foundation trustee Tammy Fisher; and Elaine Howard, President of Army Times Publishing Company, in presenting the awards. Including this year's awards, the annual competition that began in 2000 has recognized 125 programs with awards totaling nearly $600,000.

A total of 112 entries were received for the 2009 program. Six judges evaluated each entry based on the organization's impact to the respective communities, creativity and innovation.



Carolina Canines for Service (CCFS) was one of the 11 recipients for the 2009 Newman's Own Award for the Carolina Canines for Veterans which assists wounded warriors with a quality trained service dog, using military prisoners to train the dogs rescued from local shelters. Operating entirely on private donations, CCFS trains prisoners at the Camp Lejeune brig in Jacksonville, N.C. to raise and train each service dog. Carolina Canines for Veterans is the first of its kind to work within the walls of a military

prison to train service dogs. Prisoners get a second chance to help their comrades. Wounded vets get a second chance for an independent lifestyle. Shelter dogs get a second chance at life. Service dogs are provided at no cost to the wounded warrior. For more information, contact Pat Hairston (info@carolinacanines.org).