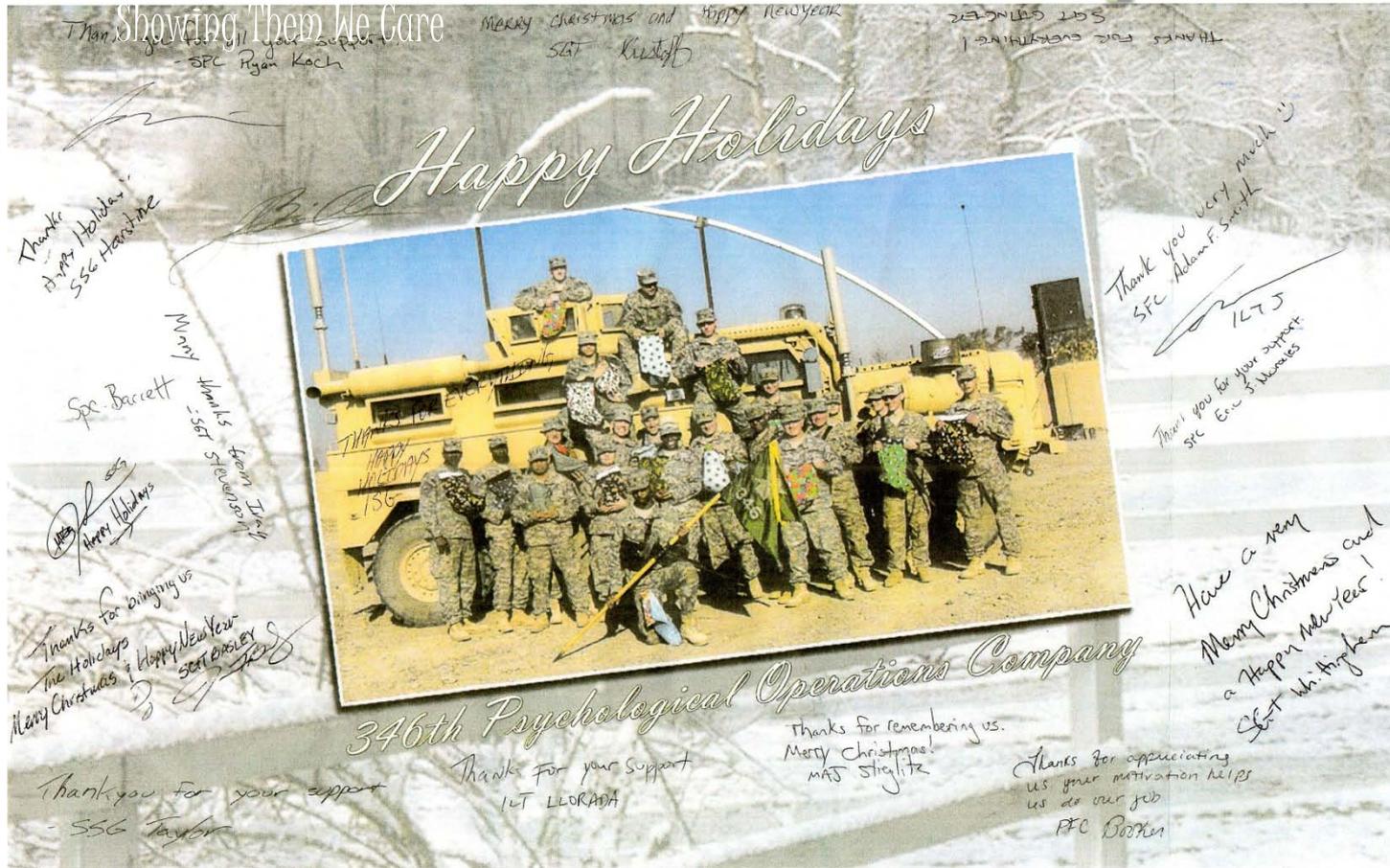


2009 Annual Report



Board Members

Ms. Rosalyn-Sue Smith, President

Ms. Rosalyn W. Smith, Vice President & Treasurer

Ms. Elisabeth Romanik, Secretary & Fundraising Chair

A Word From The President



Dear Friends:

The success of Operation Stars And Stripes, Inc. has been confirmed through the many letters and e-mails sent to us by our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. We hope that you will share in the joy by visiting our website and Facebook page to see the pictures and read the letters of those you so generously donated items to this past year. We know from these letters that while the items you donate bring smiles to their faces and tempt their taste buds, the most satisfying part of all is their affirmation that America has not forgotten them and appreciates their sacrifices.

Throughout the year we applauded the fact that our troops have accomplished a lot in helping Iraq become a nation that will be able to support itself so that our troops could redeploy to the States. Unfortunately, many of those troops will be leaving shortly for Afghanistan where they are needed. While none of us like war, we at Operation Stars And Stripes, Inc. want to remind our donors that we are dedicated to supporting our troops, not a political viewpoint. We are committed to reminding them of our care through our support.

Our Bags of Love project which provided treats and toiletries in the early part of the year was a great reminder to our troops that after the joy of the December "Holiday Stocking" project subsided, they were still being served and remembered. The "Beat the Heat" project in the middle of the year, provided items to cool the temperatures which hit over one hundred degrees often and yet again, provided them with letters reminding them of our love and support. Perhaps one of the most rewarding projects was our "Trick-or-Treating-For-the-Troops". We asked the community to donate extra candy from their Halloween celebrations and we were bombarded with over 2000 pounds of candy! This is just one example of how much can be accomplished when we all do a little to provide for those in need.

We have truly been blessed with the most dedicated members, tireless volunteers, and compassionate, generous donors. Thanks to all of you for making 2009 a very successful and rewarding year. We look forward to a relationship with each of you in 2010. We always welcome your comments and creative ways in which to serve our beloved troops better. We are indebted to each of them for the wonderful life we enjoy as Americans.

Rosalyn-Sue Smith

President

Overview

Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc., a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization seeks to support active duty personnel, reservists, national guardsmen, veterans, and their families by offering encouragement, through:

- Individualized correspondence and care packages while he or she works under difficult and dangerous conditions overseas
- Assistance domestically to enhance the quality of life of service members, veterans, and their families
- Increasing public awareness and understanding of the hardships of America's military sons and daughters

Our organization is an all-volunteer organization. We seek to accomplish our mission by providing troops, platoons, companies, and units with requested letters and/or packages for the duration of their deployment.

We also work to support the families of deployed service members through various programs, as well.

Our organization was founded in memory of Major George Thompson in May of 2001, and to date, over 100,000 packages have been sent to our deployed troops.

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter thanking you for the support, love, and care you are showing to our troops. Every week during mail call, soldiers gather around expecting care packages from families and loved ones. Sometimes they come, and sometimes they don't, but what never fails is the care packages from concerned Americans like yourself and your organization. — SFC Akinola O.

Programs That Support Our Troops

Operation Encouraging Words

This is what all troops want most! Many troops don't have a support system to give them words of support. We collect letters of encouragement and distribute them to the troops who request letters from home.

Operation We Care

It is often difficult for our troops serving overseas to acquire every day necessities and special need items, such as prepackaged snacks, toiletries, batteries, and socks. We purchase and receive donations of these items and distribute them in care packages. Often schools, as well as religious and civic organizations, participate in collecting specific items that are most requested to fill the packages for our troops overseas.

Operation Cents for Soldiers

Today's kids are more involved in the community than ever. Fundraising efforts targeted to supporting patriotism are becoming increasingly popular. Our Cents for Soldiers campaign is a homeroom or grade level competition aimed at raising money through donations of spare change from the school children. The winning homerooms or grade levels are provided with a doughnut and juice breakfast to reward them for their hard work!

Operation Crafting for a Cause

We collect handmade cards and gifts to both raise money to support our troops and to send to service members for their birthdays and special events that take place while they are deployed. We also ensure that the troops who request cards to send home to their loved ones receive them for holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, and other important dates. In addition, we have a large need for volunteers who sew, crochet, and/or knit to assist with projects such as making holiday stockings, helmet liners, and bags of love. We will be happy to provide more information upon request.



Programs That Support The Families

Operation Gifts For Kidz

We provide the children of our troops with a gift basket filled with books, games, crayons and/or a stuffed toy during the holiday seasons, in the event the family needs assistance.

Operation Family Support

We work with the spouses and family members of deployed troops (Family Support Groups) to help organize homecoming celebrations and/or otherwise lend a hand in support of various family events.



Thank you very much for your hard work to support us and help us. We are thankful! God Bless You! - Bradshaw

Our Projects

January to February

Operation Bags of Love – To show our deployed troops they are appreciated and thought of often. The heart themed bags are filled with most-needed items, in addition to snacks, games, books, etc.



March

Operation “Egg”stravaganza and Operation Cookie Drop – To provide our troops overseas with a celebration of Spring and a most-requested taste of home – Girl Scout Cookies!

May to August

Operation Beat the Heat – The heat is extremely taxing on our troops. The donations are used to provide items to help during the heat of summer.

September to early December

Operation Trick-or-Treating for the Troops and Operation Holiday Stockings – The holiday season is especially difficult for those away from their loved ones. Donations of Halloween treats and filled holiday stockings are sent to troops overseas.

In addition to the above projects, Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. accepts donations to fulfill the year round requests for support and encouragement.



Thanks for the package. The cookies
didn't quite last all of five minutes!
I certainly hope you understand
how appreciative we are over here
of everything done to support the
troops, regardless of current attitudes
toward the conflict itself.
Again, thanks, and take care of
yourself & your family.

Sgt T

Our Supporters

The cornerstone of Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. is our outstanding and dedicated volunteer and donor base. We have a seasoned management team with significant experience in the nuances of supporting our troops and a long, successful track record of working together, supported by our volunteers and donors. Our volunteers and donors come from all walks of life: some with military or military family backgrounds, some without any; some with years of experience in supporting charitable organizations, some without. They all share one common identity: a passion to support troops during these difficult and hazardous times.

Our Hands-On Management Process

Our dedication to the support of our troops dictates each and every action undertaken by the organization. We have, from the beginning, and always shall commit to personally inspecting the quality of each and every care package sent by our organization.

Thanks for all your support!
God's speed!
TSgt METCALER

YOUR SUPPORT IS WHY WE ARE HERE
MSGT 4th Col

THANKS for your support!
MSGT P. D. Tins

Thank you for all your support!
IA Sam West

Thank you for all your support!
Capt Smith

Thank you for all your support!
Capt Smith

Hope your season is filled with all your favorite things.
1st Lt. Dechen

Thank you for all of your support - you & we wish you a merry Christmas. God Bless.
AIC Garrett

Thank you for all your support - you & we wish you a merry Christmas. God Bless.
MSGT Menden

Thanks for all your support!
All these things help!
TSgt Patricia

In 2009, we supported over 4,000 troops by mailing over 9,000 care packages



Dedication

Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. Supports the Troops In Memory of Vietnam War Hero

For every not-for-profit organization that is born, there is usually a very personal reason behind its inception. Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. is no different. Rosalyn-Sue Smith, founder and President, was in elementary school when America's brave men and women deployed overseas in response to the Gulf War. Her family and entire school supported the troops by writing letters, baking cookies, and sending pictures of home. That was her first real experience with the true meaning of patriotism.

Her patriotism grew in a very personal way when her Godmother, Pat Rogers, gave her Vietnam War MIA bracelet to Rosalyn-Sue with the promise that she would never stop searching for Major George Thompson, the hero whose name was engraved on the bracelet but was still missing in action.

As she talked with various people during her search, Rosalyn-Sue's patriotic awareness greatly increased. She knew that if for no other reason than to honor Major Thompson, she needed to become more involved. As the years went by, she joined several military support organizations: fundraising, recruiting, and eventually becoming a "Platoon Mom."

An exciting thing happened in September, 2000: Rosalyn-Sue entered an online essay contest sponsored by the **Department of Defense** and Yahoo. She won the contest and was afforded the chance to spend a week with the Army and experience life as a soldier. She was given the opportunity to do everything from flying in an AH-64 Apache helicopter to freefalling with the Army's elite parachute team, the Golden Knights.

There were two very important things Rosalyn-Sue took away from that experience: the human and personal side shared by the individual soldiers and knowledge that Major George Thompson's fate had recently been discovered. Rosalyn-Sue attended a banquet where a colonel with the United States Army noticed her bracelet when shaking hands with her in a receiving line. He provided General David Petraeus with the papers to give to Rosalyn-Sue the following day. General Petraeus explained Major Thompson was finally laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

After coming home, Rosalyn-Sue continued her search for Major Thompson's family, only to discover that his brother lived 30 minutes from her home in Marietta, Georgia. Major Thompson's brother generously invited her into his home to share the life of the young man who had traded his tour stateside for a new father-to-be's tour in Vietnam. She knew then that it was her duty to honor Major Thompson and every other courageous service member that has so selflessly sacrificed their life for our freedom.

Call To Action

Rosalyn-Sue then decided to form Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. When she shared the idea with her mother, Rosalyn W. Smith and their friend, Elisabeth Romanik, they were just as passionate about the idea as she was. Each woman had a very personal connection to the military. Rosalyn W. Smith worked tirelessly during the Vietnam War on the amputee ward at the Veteran's Administration hospital, caring for our heroes returning home. Elisabeth Romanik was rescued less than an hour before the city of Saigon fell at the end of the Vietnam War by the American military. The three women set out on a mission to let our military and their families know that they care -- a mission to let them know that America remembers and is thankful for their sacrifices.

They soon found many others who share their passion and volunteer in many ways to ensure that the sacrifices our troops make on a daily basis to preserve our freedoms do not go unappreciated and are not forgotten.



**in memory of
VIETNAM WAR HERO
MAJOR GEORGE THOMPSON**

2009 Highlights

Showing Them We Care

“Showing Them We Care.” This statement sums up the mission of Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. Inspired by the memory of Major George Winton Thompson and the selfless actions of our troops, past, present, and future, Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. provides its services to all troops regardless of faith, race, gender, nationality, and socio-economic backgrounds. We provide our troops with the support and encouragement they need to transform havoc into hope.

Our track record of success goes back to 2001, when we were formed. To date over 100,000 packages have been sent to our deployed troops. 2009 was a very busy year for us as we worked to achieve and exceed the goals we set for ourselves when we began the year. Our focus has been on aggressively managing our organization to continue our support of the troops, as well as for the long term. In 2009, we did just that. By focusing on building up our donations, we ended 2003 in the best position ever to continue to create long-term support for our troops.

In 2009, we:

- Supported over 4,000 troops by mailing over 9,000 care packages
- Worked to raise public awareness and understanding of the hardships of America’s military sons and daughters by presenting at dozens of important forums, including civic clubs, schools, churches, and corporations
- Encouraged and supported troops transitioning back to their home towns and reintegrating with their families and communities
- Worked with Guidestar and Better Business Bureau to have our organization evaluated to increase our transparency
- Aggressively ramped up our governance of the organization by tightening our procedures and documenting / updating our policies.

Financial Statements

Dear Friends and Supporters of Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc.,

We are pleased to present to you an unaudited copy of our Financial Report for the years ended December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2009. This past fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2009, presented the challenge of serving an increased number of clients and as a result, Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. faced many challenges.

Yet, many of these challenges were foreseen by our leadership team through strategic planning. Therefore, you will see in this 2009 Annual Report that we were uniquely prepared and positioned to serve the continued requests for support year round with the help of our volunteers and generous donors.

We thank each and every one of you for your continued trust and support of our organization. We remain prepared to serve.

If you have questions about our financial statements, please do not hesitate to contact us at (770) 509-1156 or InfoOss@aol.com.

Sincerely,

The Directors and Officers of the Organization

	FY 2009	FY 2008
Program Revenue		
Program Related Contributions	71,401	53,305
Program Expenses		
Program Services	68,299	49,434
Management & General	369	334
Fundraising	696	832
Total Program Expenses	<u>69,364</u>	<u>50,601</u>
Revenues Less Expenses	2,037	2,704
Adjustments to correct vendor errors	870	(193)
Net Income	<u>2,907</u>	<u>2,511</u>

Statement of Revenue and Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2009

	FY 2009	FY 2008
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Equivalents	30,355	28,013
Inventory for Donations	581	17
Total Checking/Savings	30,937	28,029
Total Current Assets	<u>30,937</u>	<u>28,029</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>30,937</u></u>	<u><u>28,029</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	100	100
Unrestricted Net Assets	27,929	25,418
Net Income	2,907	2,511
Total Equity	<u>30,937</u>	<u>28,029</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u><u>30,937</u></u>	<u><u>28,029</u></u>

Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2009

Performance Assessment

Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. recognizes that our impact cannot be achieved through any single strategy, action or investment. While we had a successful 2009 in face of the economy, we, the Board of Directors, recognize that a diverse array of impact strategies and actions to achieve desired results and to support our troops is required. We commit to proactively work harder to achieve our goal to support America's military sons and daughters.

To that end, the Board of Directors will strategize and implement throughout fiscal year 2010 and beyond, to 1) develop and invest in programs and initiatives that align with priority issues and identify what we need to do to further our initiatives. Accordingly, we will work on furthering our standards of excellence, including:

- Support, join or lead collaborative fundraising efforts and joint projects that address priority issues and achieve desired results
- Recruit and engage new donors/investors and appropriate community groups as active participants to help implement strategies and produce results
- Evaluate the effectiveness of impact strategies in order to continuously identify and improve appropriate measures, collect and analyze results, and assess progress toward desired outcomes.

Directors and Officers of the Organization

Rosalyn-Sue Smith is the founder and President of Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. She has worked for the Department of Defense and is currently finishing her thesis in graduate school where she is studying Strategic Intelligence with a focus on the Middle East. Prior to founding Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc., Ms. Smith worked for multiple, military support organizations in marketing, fundraising, and leadership roles.

Rosalyn W. Smith is a founding member and the Vice President and Treasurer of Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc. She is a retired educator, artist, and professional storyteller. Ms. Smith now works as a full time speaker raising awareness about our brave service members and their families, in addition to her leadership role within the organization. Since the Vietnam War, she has volunteered countless hours working with the Veteran's Administration hospital in Atlanta, Georgia in support of our veterans returning home.

Elisabeth Romanik is a founding member and the Secretary and Fundraising Chair. Ms. Romanik became our Secretary and Fundraising Chair when we were formed in May 2001. Ms. Romanik has been an active volunteer for over 20 years and has over 15 years of experience starting up non-profit organizations. She has served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations. She is a commercial realtor, a CPA, and a graduate of the University of Texas. Ms. Romanik thanks all U.S. service members who rescued her from Saigon, South Vietnam less than an hour before the city fell to the North Vietnamese government and seeks to dedicate her life to supporting all current and future U.S. service members.



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Showing Them We Care