

Bower/Horton Benefit a Proud Success

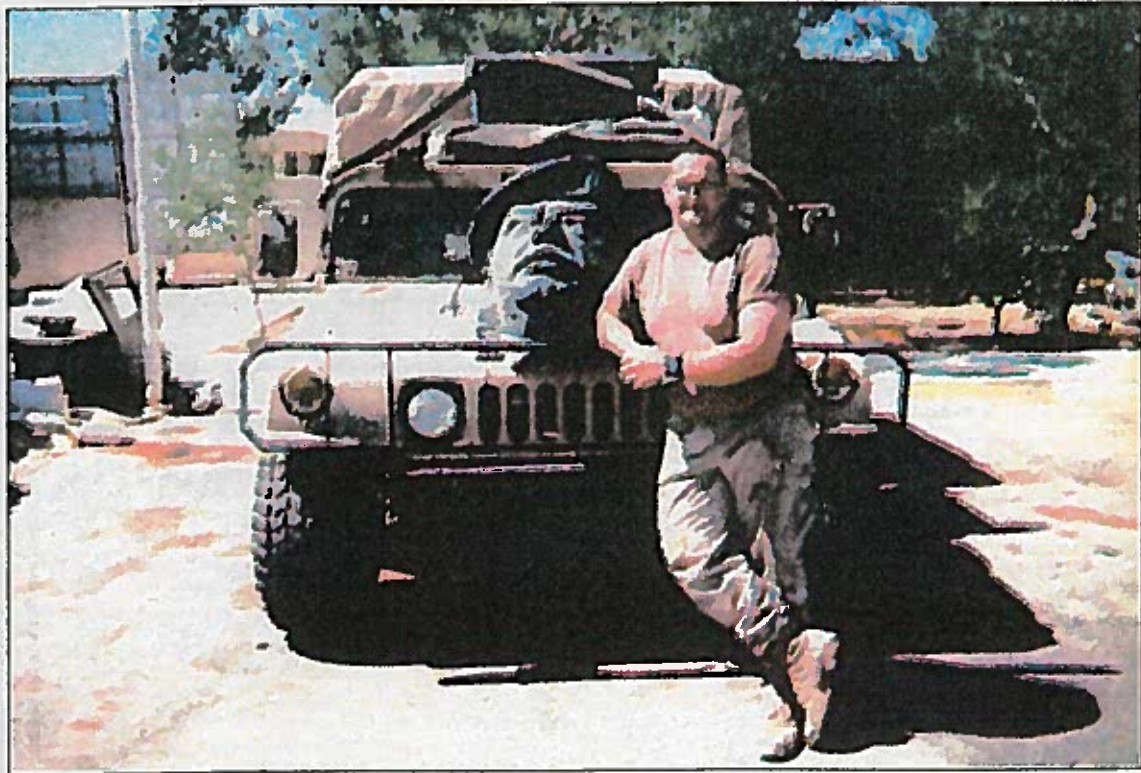
Tammy Whitacre/WCS
Bill Huff, Jr./WCS Photographer

LYONS - Two special events to benefit two local soldiers wounded in Iraq were a grand success.

The Lyons VFW and American Legion Posts came together to help the families of local soldiers Matt Horton and Phill Bauer. Matt and Phill both returned home after they received significant wounds while serving in the United States Army in Iraq. Although both men are recovering well from their injuries, extra expenses have piled up for both families for various reasons as the two soldiers heal.

It was then that the VFW and American Legion in Lyons felt there was a need and decided to unite for a caring cause. This

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Courtesy Photo

Phil leans on the Humvee he drove around Baghdad with a statue head of Saddam Hussein on the hood. Phil is recovering from wounds he received in the war.

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unification became known as the United We Care fund. It was the hopes of both these veteran organizations to raise funds to

help show their support to these two brave soldiers and their families.

At a special dinner on Satur-

day, March 13, a benefit dinner was held followed by a music fest on Sunday afternoon, March 14. The VFW reports both events brought a crowd to enjoy great food and foot tapping music from seven different bands.

The events raised \$8,000 for the two soldiers who each received \$4,000. The VFW says more donations are expected. Donations will continue to be accepted until December of this year and anyone interested in making a donation may send them to United We Care, P.O. Box 27, Lyons, NY 14489. After December, the fund will be closed and no further donations for the fund will be taken.



(L to R) Dan Olsen, SAL officer of the Lyons American Legion, Phil Bower, member of the U.S. Army, unidentified supporter of the benefit, Robert Oaks, N.Y. State Assemblyman, prior to the benefit dinner.



The sign at the front of the Lyons V.F.W. Rt. 14, Lyons, announcing the benefit dinner/music fest for Matt Horton and Phil Bower.



(L to R) Two separate bands joined together for the benefit fundraiser held at the Lyons V.F.W. Post 5092. The band "Reflection" and "For Godness Sake" joined together for one night to perform.



Richard Conaway, Commander of Lyons V.F.W. Post 5092, Dan Olsen is a S.A.L. officer, American Legion, Ida Collins, Phil Bower, Peter Stirpe, Commander of the Lyons American Legion. Phil made rabbit ears behind Ida's head and she knew what he was doing without looking.



Phil Bower and his sister, Ida Collins, presented a framed photo of Phil leaning on a Humvee with the head of a statue of Saddam Hussein on the hood.



Stephen and Joanne Galvin with the 9/11 National Remembrance Flag they designed. The couple donated raffle money to the benefit with a proud winner taking home a 9-11-01 flag.