



### News Release

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Vehicle Donation to Military Veteran Kicks Off 20-hour Carry The Load Memorial March

### Vehicle presentation:

Opening Ceremony, Sunday, May 25, 11:00 am at Reveille Peak Ranch

**AUSTIN, TX May 22, 2014** – A former U.S. Army soldier, whose struggles finding employment and transitioning to civilian life represent a familiar theme with many veterans, will be presented with a newly refurbished vehicle at the opening ceremonies of this weekend's Carry The Load 20Memorial March on Sunday at Reveille Peak Ranch in Burnet, TX.

The vehicle is being donated as part of Caliber Collision's Recycled Rides program which partners with insurance companies to donate vehicles to individuals in need. Farmers Insurance donated the vehicle which was refurbished by Caliber Collision associates who volunteered personal time to repair the vehicle.

This is the second year that Caliber Collision has partnered with Carry The Load to help ease the burden for veteran families in need of reliable transportation. Three additional Recycled Rides vehicles are also being donated to three other veteran families at Carry The Load closing ceremonies on Monday, May 26, in Dallas.

In addition to the technicians who donated time to repair the vehicles, Caliber Collision associates from corporate offices and 34 centers throughout the Dallas-Ft. Worth and Austin area will also be raising funds and participating in Carry the Load's Memorial March. The company has also pledged a contribution of \$25,000 to support Carry The Load programs and activities.





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Carry The Load is a 20-hour Memorial Day event honoring and thanking members of the military, law enforcement, firefighters and their families for the sacrifices they make. Participants walk or run as long or as little as they can.

After serving four years with the US Army, including a one-year deployment in Afghanistan, Eric McNary struggled transitioning to civilian life. Finding employment was especially a challenge and unable to afford a car which further hindered his job prospects. After a number of temporary positions, he recently landed steady employment with Bank of America. The Recycled Rides vehicle from Caliber Collision and Farmers Insurance will help ease the commute to his new job and provide him with reliable transportation to pursue education opportunities.

This year's recipient was nominated by Allies In Service, a local veteran support organization.

"Having access to reliable transportation is often the single most important resource many families need to get back on the road to financial stability," said Steve Grimshaw, Chief Executive Officer of Caliber Collision. "Through our Recycled Rides program, we have the opportunity to restore the meaning of Memorial Day by providing our military veterans with vehicles that can help restore them to the rhythm of their lives."

"Our military service members have selflessly devoted years of their lives to keep us safe and secure," said Pete Hickey, COD Division Manager of National MSO Operations for Farmers Insurance which donated the vehicles. "We are honored to be able to contribute to this effort by giving back to U.S. military families in need of reliable transportation."

Much like the service members they honor, participants carry often more than they have to, longer than they think they can. Some may choose to carry weighted packs as a symbol of their commitment to Carry The Load.

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#### **About Caliber Collision**

Caliber Collision Centers is one of the largest collision repair companies in America with 168 I-CAR Gold Class Professional certified collision repair centers in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas. Caliber is consistently ranked among the highest customer satisfaction scores in the industry and backs all repair work with a written, lifetime warranty available at any of its 168 repair centers. For more information about Caliber Collision, please visit our website at www.calibercollision.com.





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Farmers Insurance Group of Companies is a leading U.S. insurer group of automobiles, homes and small businesses and also provides a wide range of other insurance and financial services products. Farmers Insurance is proud to serve more than 10 million households with more than 20 million individual policies across all 50 states through the efforts of over 50,000 exclusive and independent agents and approximately 22,000 employees.

For more information about Farmers, visit its Web site at <a href="www.farmers.com">www.farmers.com</a> or at <a href="www.farmerslnsurance">www.farmerslnsurance</a>