



**St. Francis Commandery  
The Order of the St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller**

**HONORS COURAGEOUS VETERANS**

Following the traditions of the original Knights Hospitaller, The St. Francis Commandery of The Order of St. John of Jerusalem proudly announces a supporting donation in honor of the Veterans Program at the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT).

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem is an order of chivalry dedicated to the service of all humanity. It is an ecumenical, international, Christian Order directly descended from the Knights Hospitaller founded in the 11th Century. The Commandery of St Francis was the first commandery to be established on the west coast and is headquartered in the San Francisco Bay area. The Commandery is comprised principally of serving or retired Officers of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and its Allies.

NCEFT, a California Non-Profit organization, has a 37-year legacy of experience serving individuals with special needs — utilizing the movement of highly-trained horses to provide beneficial physical and occupational therapy and equine assisted activities. Located in the beautiful hills of Woodside, California, this world-class center promotes healing and hope.

At no cost to the veterans or the federal government, the **Veterans Program at NCEFT** offers supplemental rehabilitation services to active duty personnel and veterans currently being served by the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS), Polytrauma Transitional Rehab Program. VAPAHCS is one of only four such systems of care in the United States and the only center on the west coast serving these service personnel. The supplemental therapeutic treatment incorporates hippotherapy and equine assisted activities.

More than 12,000 military personnel have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan severely wounded, placing a strain on the medical staff at military hospitals across the United States already established to serve active duty personnel and veterans prior to this influx. The Veterans Affairs in the struggle to meet the rehabilitation needs of these military personnel has found a new resource through partnerships.

The St. Francis Commandery is deeply honored to recognize these courageous active duty personnel and veterans — as well as the unique rehabilitation services provided by the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy.

**We cordially invite media coverage at the Donation Ceremony on Friday, April 11, 2008  
11:00 a.m. at the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy,  
880 Runnymede Road, Woodside, CA.**

*National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy  
880 Runnymede Road, Woodside, CA 94062  
Phone: 650-851-2271  
[www.nceft.org](http://www.nceft.org)*

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[www.osj-sfc.com](http://www.osj-sfc.com)*