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## PRESS RELEASE

### INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF VIRGINIA PARTNERED WITH CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS TO PROVIDE TROOPS WITH FREE CALLS HOME

Richmond, Virginia – Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia’s Young Agents Committee helped troops call home by collecting and donating over fifty gently-used cellular phones to the nonprofit Cell Phones For Soldiers. Although the military landscape is ever changing, as many as 200,000 troops are serving in the United States military overseas around the world. By donating to Cell Phones For Soldiers, Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia are helping to provide a lifeline for America’s bravest.

The donation drive began early this summer. Independent agents donated their phones and/or tablets at the IIAV Headquarters in Richmond or at agency locations across the state, including:

- Marsh & McLennan Agency, Richmond
- LD&B Ins & Financial Services, Harrisonburg
- F A Wagner, Daleville
- Haun Magruder, Inc., Woodstock
- Ford & Thomas, Richmond
- Atkinson Insurance Agency, Mechanicsville
- Ahart, Frinzi & Smith, Alexandria
- Bankers Insurance Fairfax, Fairfax
- Choice Insurance Agency, Virginia Beach
- S.L. Nusbaum Insurance Co., Norfolk

Cell Phones For Soldiers was founded in 2004 by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist at the ages of 12 and 13. The charity has since provided more than 400 million minutes of free talk time to servicemen and women stationed around the world through its calling card program, Minutes That Matter. Funds raised from the recycling of cellular phones are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards. On average, Cell Phones For Soldiers distributes 2,500 calling cards each week to bases around the world, care package programs, deployment ceremonies and VA hospitals.

“Each year we have been humbled by the amount of people and organizations like Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia that take the initiative to support our military members,” said co-founder Robbie Bergquist. “The communication gap between military members actively serving and their families is a crucial need that Cell Phones For Soldiers is committed to addressing for years to come.”

For every donated phone valued at \$5, Cell Phones For Soldiers is able to provide two and a half hours of free talk time to deployed troops.

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Since 2004, more than 20 million phones have been recycled or repurposed. Approximately half of the phones processed are reconditioned and reused. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and responsibly recycled to reclaim materials, including:

- Gold, silver and platinum from circuit boards
- Copper wiring from phone chargers
- Nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs

For more information, please visit [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com).

**ABOUT CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS INC.**

Cell Phones For Soldiers Inc. is a national nonprofit dedicated to serving troops and veterans with free communication services and emergency funding. Founded in 2004 by Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, then 12 and 13 years old, Cell Phones For Soldiers has provided more than 400 million “Minutes That Matter” to servicemen and women. Since 2012, “Helping Heroes Home” has provided emergency funds for more than 5,000 veterans to alleviate communication challenges as well as physical, emotional and assimilation hardships. For more information, visit [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com), or our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

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