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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association Collaborates with Army OneSource to Launch "Healing Hands 4 Heroes"

Special Community Covenant Signing in Conjunction with Spring Convention

Afton, Va. (April 6, 2011) -- The Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association is proud to collaborate with Army OneSource, a U.S. Army Community outreach program, to raise awareness of the unique challenges of Military life on our Service Members and their Families and to address the growing need for accessible health services. The Unified VCA is the first healthcare organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia to sign on to this program.

Many Unified VCA members already treat veterans of the armed forces that return from deployment with health problems. This new program will help educate members on the unique challenges that these service members and their families face and how to help this group get the care they need. War is different today in many ways:

- One in every four people in the U.S. has a connection to the Military.
- 1.5 million Service Members have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 90% of wounded Service Members survive their injuries.
- A greater percentage are coming home with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and severe posttraumatic stress.
- We have an all volunteer Military that includes significant numbers of National Guard members and Reservists.
- Nearly half of all active and reserve members experience multiple deployments.
- In this era of high-tech and constant communication, Service Members remain in constant contact with their Families even when deployed.
- We are involved in unconventional warfare – no front line, IEDs (improvised explosive devices), no down time, constant vigilance.

Because of the importance of this event, the early-bird registration discount and group rate for hotel rooms for the Unified VCA Spring Convention has been extended to Sunday, April 10!

The program, entitled "Healing Hands 4 Heroes," invites Doctors of Chiropractic to learn about the stresses and challenges our service members and their families are facing as a result of multiple deployments. Three online courses addressing "the invisible wounds of war" have been developed in conjunction with Cleveland Chiropractic College: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Issues of Women Returning from Combat. They are being made available for free to all DCs and qualify as type 1 credit in Virginia.

All Doctors of Chiropractic who complete the training will receive CEU documentation. Unified VCA Members who complete the training will also receive a certificate of completion and a special poster they can display in their office to convey their gratitude to service member and their families and to demonstrate their personal commitment to this program, plus be listed and recognized on the Army OneSource web site.

At the Unified VCA's Spring Convention on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at the Dulles Airport Hilton in Herndon, Virginia, the Unified VCA will conduct a Community Covenant Signing with Army OneSource to officially launch the program. Convention attendees, other members, military leaders, officials, legislators, and the press are being invited to attend this historic ceremony. The event will launch a statewide commitment by the Unified VCA and its Members to ensure that our returning veterans and their families receive the proper health care they deserve.

The ceremony is scheduled from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Belmont Ballroom of the Dulles Airport Hilton in Herndon, Virginia. There is no fee to attend just the ceremony, but an RSVP is requested and needed to ensure proper planning. For more information on the Healing Hands 4 Heroes covenant signing or the Spring Convention, or if you are interested in attending either or both, contact the Unified VCA office at 540-932-3100 or via email at vcacentral@hughes.net or visit www.virginiachiropractic.org.