

# Stand Up for Heroes The Bob Woodruff Family Fund Benefit

Photos by: Steve Mack [www.sdmackpictures.com](http://www.sdmackpictures.com)



Sara Herbert-Galloway and The Joint Services Color Guard

New York City. It was both a heartfelt and star-studded celebrity filled evening at The New York Comedy Festival (NYCF) partnered with The Bob Woodruff Family Fund (BWFF). The true stars of the evening were our nation's service men and women returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hundreds of service members attended Stand Up for Heroes, first ever benefit that took place at New York's Historic Town Hall.

On this momentous occasion civilians from all walks of society, media, entertainment, sports, fashion, finance, philanthropy, and health care industries joined forces with our nation's heroes from the US Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, to pay tribute, and to support and raise awareness for our nation's injured service members. The message was loud and clear, "We are here to Support the Heroes who have supported our nation. We Salute You!" While greeting the audience, Bob Woodruff joined by his wife Lee said, "This is not a political cause. Left, right, and center, no matter how you feel about this war, this is all about how we treat the wounded right here when they return."



Bob Woodruff and his family: Cathryn, Lee and Mack

that Helen K. Persson of Palm Beach, an 89 year old former Navy Nurse from WWII who took care of the wounded in the South Pacific, donated \$1,000,000. Mrs. Persson and her late husband, Mr. A. Theodore Persson share Bob and Lee Woodruff's alma mater, Colgate University. Rene Bardorf, said, "As the Executive Director of the BWFF and the wife of an active duty Marine, I am enormously grateful for Mrs. Persson's support of our wounded and their families". Adding, "Mrs. Persson wishes to treat all service members and their families as if they are her own family". The fundraising part of the evening was a great success and it is just the beginning, the first step on the road to recovery.

ABC co-anchor of World News Tonight, Bob Woodruff and camera man Doug Vogt were nearly killed in 2006 when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded. Bob was the first American news anchor to be wounded in a war zone. Both men suffered Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) the signature injury of the Iraq war. Bob and Doug are lucky to be alive.

Bob and Lee published a book called, In an Instant: A Family's Journey of Love and Healing. I believe the power and presence of love and healing were felt by everyone in attendance.

The New York Comedy Festival is sponsored by Caroline's on Broadway, [www.nycomedyfestival.com](http://www.nycomedyfestival.com)

The Bob Woodruff Family Fund works with private industry and government to develop public awareness and excellence in research, education, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, support and resources for the injured and their families as they reintegrate to duty or civilian life. Proceeds from the evening and on line auction go to the BWFF. For more information please visit: [www.bobwoodrufffamilyfund.org](http://www.bobwoodrufffamilyfund.org)



Diane Sawyer and US Marine



Brian Williams

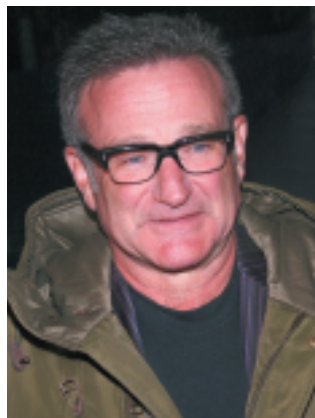
NBC's Conan O'Brien hosted the evening's festivities. Others contributing the 'healing power of humor' were Lewis Black, Brian Regan and Academy award winning actor and comedian Robin Williams. The 'Boss', Bruce Springsteen added the 'healing power of music' by performing some songs, with harmonica and guitar, one of which was Thunder Road. Bruce added the real rumble of thunder to the evening when he briefly started (against the Sotheby's auctioneer's plea) his chrome and white 1991 Harley Davidson Fat Boy that he donated for the live auction, proving to the audience that it was indeed Born to Run. Imagine the thunderous applause from the crowd when the motorcycle fetched \$85,000 for the BWFF! Another thrill came when an announcement was made

**"People talk about giving to charity. We are supporting volunteers who have come back injured. It is a duty not a charity."**

Dave Woodruff,  
Chairman of the BWFF



Conan O'Brien



Robin Williams



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Woodruff