



COURTESY PHOTO

Legendary singer Tony Orlando sings to former Army Specialist Eric Jordan, Lakeway's first adopted wounded warrior, and the recipient of the local Patriot Fund Committee's first iBOT Mobility System.

## Patriot Fund extends efforts across nation

HOLLYWOOD, CA. - Former Army Specialist Eric Jordan, Lakeway's first adopted wounded warrior, and the recipient of the Lakeway Patriot Fund Committee's first iBOT Mobility System in August 2007, once again took to the stage. This time it was in Hollywood, California to present the American Airlines Veterans Initiatives Lifetime Achievement Award to legendary singer/song writer Tony Orlando. Orlando, and Korean War veteran and film actor James MacEachern were both recognized for their decades of support for our military heroes.

On Saturday, March 7, at the Raleigh Studios in Hollywood, more than 400 gathered for dinner, auction, and entertainment in support of our country's most severely wounded military veterans. Co-sponsored by American Airlines, Young Presidents Organization (YPO) Santa Monica Bay Chapter, and America's Huey 091 Foundation, special guests included ten (10) iBOT recipients and their families, as well as members of the Lakeway Patriot Fund Committee. Two of the iBOT recipients in attendance, Eric Jordan and Felipe Adams, were the first two soldiers to benefit directly from Lakeway donations.

The grass-roots efforts for the iBOT donation project began in Lakeway in August 2007, and were picked up by YPO Santa Monica a few short months later. Including the efforts resulting from Saturday's Hollywood event, the two

organizations have been responsible for raising over \$1 million dollars in donations resulting in the distribution of twenty-five (25) iBOTs to America's most seriously injured warriors in a mere eighteen (18) months.

A surprise guest at the event was iBOT inventor Dean Kamen. His research and development goals for the iBOT over a period of ten (10) years were intended to bring back to our seriously injured soldiers a sense of dignity and self-reliance - goals that have clearly been achieved. Kamen continues to work with the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) on other projects such as a prosthetic robotic arm named the "Luke Arm" after Star

Wars hero Luke Skywalker. Reportedly, the only obstacle holding up production of the "Luke Arm" is the completion of clinical trials and approval of the system by the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration. If the success of the iBOT is any indication, American warriors returning from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan who have lost their arms in combat may soon be eligible for the "Luke Arm."

Questions regarding the iBOT or the Lakeway Patriot Fund Committee may be forwarded through America's Huey 091 Foundation member Gary Lawson by calling 214-651-4307, or by emailing [gary.lawson@strasburger.com](mailto:gary.lawson@strasburger.com).