

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM SHARES "GIFT OF LAUGHTER"

The Friars Wounded Warrior program made its second visit to Walter Reed Hospital earlier this year to bring entertainment to the injured troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. The group of dedicated Friars who participated in bringing high quality entertainment to the soldiers were the Stone Brothers (Friars Adam and Todd), Friar Dave Rosner (who also doubled as producer), Friar Marc Feinson (emcee and talented magician), Friar Larry Stevens, Friar Dominic Chianese and Friar Vincent Pastore. Wounded Warrior Program Chairman Friar Patricia Greenwald coordinated the tour and joined in the goodwill portion of the program.

Promotional materials were posted around the hospital alerting the soldiers of the Friars pending visit which explained the huge turnout for their



Friar Larry Stevens playing their songs

performances. The Friars performed two shows to accommodate all the patients and even entertained those not well enough to make it to the auditoriums. These bedside visits with Warriors too ill to attend the shows were conducted primarily as quiet visits with the celebrities and guitarists playing soft music in the background.



Friar Vincent Pastore making friends

The quiet time was broken—in a good way though—in one of the rooms when Chianese broke into a rendition of *I'm Back In The Saddle Again* to the delight of the Warriors and the staff present. Feinson entertained the hospital staff at the nursing stations with his magic tricks and had everyone laughing.



Friars Marc Feinson, Adam Stone, Dave Rosner, Todd Stone, Patricia Greenwald

Patients, staff and families were treated to the dynamic talent that only the Friars can deliver.



Friar Dominic Chianese and Wounded Warriors

When it came to a meet and greet with *Sopranos* stars Chianese and Pastore, the Warriors waited in long lines and were delighted to get their photos personally autographed.

The trip was so successful that the Commanding Officer of the hospital told Greenwald, "This show is so great! The next time you come here, I want to have the show beamed into the individual rooms of every patient who is unable to attend!"

What a wonderful compliment to the performers and the Club. We are the only social club in the country doing this, and while individual celebrities visit the military hospitals, the Friars are the only ones who bring an entire show to the Wounded Warriors. All Friars can be proud of the role the Club has in bringing "The Gift of Laughter" to our injured troops.