



Airgas Presents Operation Homefront with its Third \$100,000 Donation

- **Donation of \$100,000 to national military and veteran support organization, third installment over a three-year period beginning in 2008**
- **Goal of hiring 100 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan service**
- **Offer to train veterans interested in exploring welding as a career**
- **Volunteer opportunities available for anyone interested in supporting U.S. service members**

RADNOR, PA and NORMAN, OK - July 19, 2010 - Airgas, Inc. (NYSE: ARG), the largest U.S. distributor of industrial, medical, and specialty gases, celebrates its continued commitment to Operation Homefront, a charity that supports America's service members by providing emergency assistance and moral support to the families left behind when they are deployed and to wounded service members when they return home.

A donation of \$100,000 was presented to Operation Homefront on Saturday, July 17 at the "Great Expectations" baby shower event hosted by the group's Oklahoma chapter at the Sarkeys Foundation in Norman, OK. Terry Lodge, president of Airgas Mid South, the Airgas regional company based in Tulsa that services customers through 71 locations in eight southern states, presented Carol Herrick, president of Operation Homefront's Oklahoma chapter with the company's third annual contribution at the event honoring expectant mothers with spouses in the military. The "Great Expectations" baby shower also featured educational sessions about childcare, baby gift giveaways and games.

Airgas announced in 2008 its \$300,000 pledge to be paid in increments of \$100,000 per year over three years, with 70 percent going toward Operation Homefront's projects to assist wounded soldiers. Airgas also set a goal of hiring 100 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan service and began offering the Airgas "Welding 101" course to any veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan service who is interested in exploring a career in welding. Having recently met its goal of hiring 100 veterans, Airgas will continue to actively recruit veterans for positions within the organization.

"The sacrifices made by our military community during the course of our nation's military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan are immense," said Airgas Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Peter McCausland. "Operation Homefront was founded to meet the needs of the military community during these difficult times, and Airgas is proud to join others in supporting this work to give vital aid to those who have given so much to this country."

Airgas associates nationwide have been involved in local activities and fundraisers to support Operation Homefront. Each Airgas regional company and business unit has designated an Operation Homefront point person to manage the relationship between its operations and Operation Homefront chapters in its area.

"One of the most standout qualities of our company is the generosity of Airgas associates," said McCausland. "Every day, our associates give back to the communities where they work and live, and since our partnership with Operation Homefront began, our employees have participated in and volunteered at dozens of local chapter events across the country. We look forward to continuing the Airgas charitable tradition with our friends at Operation Homefront over the next year."

About Airgas, Inc.

Airgas, Inc. (NYSE: ARG), through its subsidiaries, is the largest U.S. distributor of industrial, medical, and specialty gases, and hardgoods, such as welding equipment and supplies. Airgas is also one of the largest U.S. distributors of safety products, the largest U.S. producer of nitrous oxide and dry ice, the largest liquid carbon dioxide producer in the Southeast, and a leading distributor of process chemicals, refrigerants, and ammonia products. More than 14,000 employees work in approximately 1,100 locations, including branches, retail stores, gas fill plants, specialty gas labs, production facilities and distribution centers. Airgas also distributes its products and services through eBusiness, catalog and telesales channels. Its national scale and strong local presence offer a competitive edge to its diversified customer base. For more information, please visit www.airgas.com.

About Operation Homefront

Operation Homefront provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded warriors. A national nonprofit, Operation Homefront leads more than 4,500 volunteers across 23 chapters and has met more than 267,000 needs since 2002. A four-star rated charity by watchdog Charity Navigator, nationally, \$.95 of total revenue donated to Operation Homefront goes to programs. For more information about Operation Homefront, please visit www.operationhomefront.net. To donate, visit <http://bit.ly/dyXEEJ>

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