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## A&W<sup>®</sup> RESTAURANTS RAISES \$250,000 FOR WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT A&W celebrated National Root Beer Float Day by giving away free Root Beer Floats and collecting donations for America's veterans.

**Lexington, KY** – A&W<sup>®</sup> Restaurants is proud to announce that the chain collected \$250,000 in donations for Wounded Warrior Project<sup>®</sup> (WWP) this year. For the past three years, A&W has celebrated National Root Beer Float Day on August 6 by giving away free Root Beer Floats and collecting donations for WWP. A&W has raised \$550,000 for WWP since 2012. Each year National Root Beer Float Day continues to grow, and A&W hopes that this fun-filled holiday can be a day to celebrate both Root Beer Floats and paying it forward for America's veterans.

Kevin Bazner, CEO of A&W Restaurants, noted, "Being able to contribute to Wounded Warrior Project's cause and reward our loyal guests with free Root Beer Floats brings us great satisfaction. We're proud of our operators for giving away hundreds of thousands of free Floats, and we're thankful to our guests for giving back to a worthwhile cause."

"A&W has a rich of history of supporting this nations veterans, and they share in Wounded Warrior Project's mission to honor and empower Wounded Warriors," said Steve Nardizzi, WWP chief executive officer. "We're so grateful for their generosity and the critical resources they're providing to this organization, as we continue to support those wounded protecting the freedoms we all hold so dear."

Since 2003, WWP has grown its lifesaving programs and services to meet the growing needs of the constituency it serves. Currently WWP provides support to more than 77,000 injured service members and over 13,000 caregivers and family support members through 20, free programs and services. These programs and services are uniquely structured to engage warriors, nurture their minds and bodies, and encourage economic empowerment. Through a high-touch and interactive approach, WWP's vision is to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history.

The founder of A&W, Roy Allen, began making Root Beer to welcome home returning soldiers from World War I, and A&W remains committed to supporting our returning servicemen and women. For more details on National Root Beer Float Day, please visit <u>www.rootbeerfloatday.com</u>.

## About A&W

In 1919, A&W's founder Roy Allen set up a roadside drink stand in Lodi, California to introduce a new beverage called "root beer" at a parade honoring returning World War I veterans. With his creation an instant success, Allen took partner Frank Wright and named the beverage we know as A&W<sup>®</sup> Root Beer. Shortly after, Allen and Wright started franchising roadside stands, which makes A&W restaurants the oldest franchise restaurant chain in the country. A&W Root Beer is made today just like it was back

then, fresh in the restaurants. Ingredients include real cane sugar, water; and a proprietary blend of herbs, bark, spices, and berries. It's still caffeine free and served up in a frosty mug. A&W is owned by a partnership of franchisees; the company has 1,100 franchise locations in 10 countries and territories.

## **About Wounded Warrior Project**

The mission of Wounded Warrior Project<sup>®</sup> (WWP) is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors. WWP's purpose is to raise awareness and to enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured servicemen and women aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs. WWP is a national, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. To get involved and learn more, visit woundedwarriorproject.org.

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