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Resale System's Blind Hiring Nets Alliance Boost

Washington, D.C. (July 16, 2012) – The National Industries for the Blind announced today that it is joining the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits.

NIB made the move in recognition of the major job generation efforts of the resale programs in support of the blind. The organization has joined the Coalition as a “Valued Associate” in the Coalition’s effort to advance the savings and job creating benefits of the military resale system. NIB provides aid in job placement for veterans whose injuries have led to blindness and is the largest employer of the blind in the United States.

“Given our long-standing support of the military resale system, we are proud to stand with the Save Our Benefit initiative and will do what we can to preserve this benefit for our current and future military families,” said Kevin Lynch, President and CEO of NIB.

There are currently 17 nonprofit agencies associated with NIB that supply products to the Defense Commissary Agency, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Navy Exchange Command, Marine Corps Exchange and Coast Guard Exchange System. In 2010, the AbilityOne Program products sold in commissaries and exchanges resulted in 400 full-time employment opportunities for persons who are blind. Today nearly 70 percent of working-age Americans who are blind are not employed. NIB helps these Americans find employment and opportunities for personal independence. NIB and its 90 associated nonprofit agencies serve nationwide as the largest employer of people who are blind.

“NIB has a long and inspirational history of aiding military personnel in their transition back to civilian life. Through its Wounded Warrior program, NIB has helped so many veterans get support and find jobs,” said Patrick Nixon, President of the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits. “Military resale is also an extremely powerful job engine, providing thousands of well-paying jobs to veterans and military families. NIB shares our strong commitment to the uniformed services and brings strong support to our Coalition.”

Save Our Benefit advocates for military resale, which saves military families 20 to 50 percent on their purchases and provides billions of dollars in aid to on-base community support programs. In addition, nearly 50,000 veterans and military families are employed on base at a multitude of exchange, commissary and community sales outlets. Over 60 percent of workers in commissaries have a military affiliation.

About National Industries for the Blind (NIB) www.nib.org

NIB is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance the opportunities for economic and personal independence of persons who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment. NIB and its network of 90 nonprofit associated agencies nationwide serve as the largest employer for people who are blind by the sale of SKILCRAFT® and other products and services through the AbilityOne Program, established by the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act.

For more information, please visit www.SaveOurBenefit.org.

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