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## **AAMCO Repairs California Veteran's Car as Part of "50 Cars in 50 States" Program**

*Los Angeles Vietnam War Veteran Enjoys Free Auto Repairs from Local AAMCO Center*

**HORSHAM, Pa.** – [AAMCO](#), the world's largest chain of transmission specialists and leader in total car care, continued its *50 Cars in 50 States* initiative by repairing the car of a Vietnam War veteran in Los Angeles through its partnership with the [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) (MOPH).

Richard B. Gonzalez is a combat-disabled U.S. Marine Corps veteran from San Gabriel. He served three tours of duty during the Vietnam War. Mr. Gonzalez was awarded two Purple Heart medals for serious injuries suffered during his service that resulted in the amputation of both of his legs. He relies on his 1987 Dodge van to get to his medical appointments at the Veterans Affairs Hospital, run daily errands, and visit family. But, the failing condition of his van, and his stressed financial situation have made it difficult for Mr. Gonzalez to get the repairs he needed. Because of his automotive needs, Mr. Gonzalez was endorsed to participate in AAMCO's program by the MOPH Department of California commander.

"I feel very fortunate. I am thankful to AAMCO and to the Pasadena owner and technicians and everyone involved to ensure that my van is in a safe, working condition," said Mr. Gonzalez. "By restoring my van, AAMCO restored by independence. I have a couple of more years to drive!"

Mr. Gonzalez picked up his newly repaired van on July 23 from the AAMCO of Pasadena center, at 1800 E. Colorado Boulevard, where the repairs were provided free of charge. After Mr. Gonzalez dropped off his van, AAMCO technicians conducted a thorough diagnostic inspection to determine all repairs needed. Ultimately, the transmission, engine, brakes, suspension and air conditioning were all fixed and improved. Additional services were performed to ensure his vehicle will continue to serve him for years to come.

"It has been an honor and privilege for AAMCO Transmissions, Pasadena to be able to do our part to say thanks to Mr. Gonzales for his service and sacrifice for our country," said Sadu Gourkar, AAMCO of Pasadena owner. "We hope that his vehicle was repaired to his satisfaction and beyond his expectations."

In celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, AAMCO partnered with the MOPH to give back to America's veterans in communities across the country. Through the *50 Cars in 50 States* program, AAMCO is repairing the cars of 50 combat veterans, with the goal to repair one in each state to commemorate 50 years of total car care service.

**About AAMCO**

[AAMCO](http://www.AAMCO.com) is the world's largest chain of transmission specialists and a leader in total car care services. AAMCO has over 900 automotive centers throughout the United States and Canada. Established in 1962, AAMCO centers are proud to have served more than 45 million drivers. For more information, visit [www.AAMCO.com](http://www.AAMCO.com).

**About the Military Order of the Purple Heart**

The organization now known as the "[Military Order of the Purple Heart](http://www.moph.org) of the U.S.A. Inc.," (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America's military history. Most importantly, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Through the VAVS program, MOPH volunteers provide assistance to hospitalized veterans at VA sites and State Veterans Homes.

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