

T-shirts supporting overseas troops make statements

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Features Editor

Differing from the traditional yellow ribbon bumper stickers that appear on cars nowadays in order to showcase support for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, T-shirts are beginning to make a big statement.

TakePride, a company hoping to rally America's youth into supporting troops overseas, has created a line of T-shirts with specific messages of encouragement.

"This project offers Americans a new, more stylish and meaningful way to support their fellow Americans serving in Iraq or Afghanistan," said Kevin Reilly, a member of the TakePride team.

These T-shirts also hold special meanings, as each design was inspired by a selected number of service members who have served or are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

According to an article that appeared in the Washington Post, TakePride currently offers nine different styles of shirts that have been created by soldiers who have served or are still serving for the United States overseas.

"By focusing on individuals, we hope to humanize the troops and give people a reference point for better understanding what the larger group is going through," said Reilly.

This project was founded by TakePride members Patrick Gray and John Betz, who started the business during the summer as they believed that American citizens were losing sight of their troops fighting the war, according to the Washington Post.

Twenty percent of the profits made are being contributed to charities that help combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The first donation has already been made to Disabled American Veterans.

"The shirts are in no way politically partisan," said Reilly. "Our intent was to establish something mainstream enough to elicit support on all sides and further the stereotype that supporting the troops can






only be a conservative role."

According to the Washington Post, one of the T-shirt designs is entitled "Iraq Imagined." This specific T-shirt illustrates a military helicopter flying overhead a Humvee driving along a path of palm trees. This drawing was designed by a former Marine whose job was to call in information regarding airstrikes against insurgents.

Shirts cost between \$20 and \$22. For more purchasing information on these shirts, visit <http://www.takepride.com>. Which features certain designs and logos.

Contact Lauren Doxsey at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Charities that proceeds of TakePride T-shirts go to include:

-  Wounded Warriors— www.woundedwarriorproject.org
-  Disabled American Veterans (DAV)— www.dav.org
-  Fisher House— www.fisherhouse.org
-  Any Soldier— www.anysoldier.com
-  The USO— www.uso.org

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For info call

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