Dallas-based MediSend's Wednesday luncheon is sold out

dallasnews Administrator

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President George W. Bush, will discuss “National Security Challenges — Ten Years After 9/11” at a sold-out luncheon Wednesday that has already grossed more than $400,000 benefiting the work of MediSend International.

MediSend addresses the desperate need for medical supplies, biomedical equipment and trained biomedical technicians in inadequate health care systems during natural disasters worldwide.

American Airlines will be honored with the 2011 Elisabeth Dahan Humanitarian Award acknowledging AA’s partnerships with MediSend that have delivered lifesaving aid to such areas as Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

The honorary chairman of the event, Tom Horton, president of AMR Corp. and American Airlines, will accept the award.

Myers, now retired from the Air Force, led U.S. forces not only during the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq but also during the military’s relief efforts after the tsunami that struck the Pacific in December 2004 and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

His book, Eyes on the Horizon, is a memoir of one of our nation’s highest-ranking officers and his call for change to fortify national security.

Since 2006, MediSend International has trained and returned 73 qualified biomedical repair technicians to Haiti, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Chad, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Togo, Uganda, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, India and Kazakhstan. These were the first such professionals in many of these countries. MediSend has also shipped hundreds of tons of medical supplies and equipment to partner hospitals and disaster-stricken areas worldwide.

Major sponsors of the luncheon include:

$100,000: Dahan Family Foundation.

$75,000: ExxonMobil Foundation.

$55,000: MaerskLine.
$25,000: Civitas, Dr. Woodrow and Susan Gandy, Marathon Oil Co., Perkins + Will Architects and Strasburger & Price.

$10,000: American Airlines, Ken Cohen and Darcie Bundy, Nick and Gabriela Hallack, Harold Simmons Foundation, International SOS and United Technologies Corp.

A personal note

My heart and gratitude go out to the countless readers who sent congratulations in response to Cheryl Hall’s much, much too nice feature Sept. 26 on my attainment of 60 years of continued employment at The Dallas Morning News.

Rather than let the article suffer the fate of yesterday’s newspaper, I offered to let the article serve as my annual self-evaluation required by our newspaper’s human resources department.

While I await a response, I shall again thank you from the bottom of my heart for caring.