



OPERATION MEND HELPS WAR VETERAN TURN INJURIES INTO COMEDY

Veteran takes stage to celebrate freedom, inspire and heal

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SUGGESTED TEASE	An American hero proves that sometimes laughter is the best medicine. One soldier's inspiring story of finding healing through humor is coming up.
ANCHOR LEAD	As the nation celebrates our freedom this July 4th, one injured army veteran is spreading laughter and hope through humor.
TAKE VO	(VO)
CG: Courtesy: UCLA Operation Mend	<p>Army veteran Bobby Henline was wounded during his fourth tour of duty in Iraq. Henline has undergone 45 surgeries since surviving an Improvised Explosive Device attack that killed four of his fellow servicemen. The only survivor of the blast, Henline suffered severe burns covering almost 40% of his body.</p> <p>He just returned to his hometown of San Antonio from treatment at UCLA where he underwent additional reconstructive surgery on his face, ear and neck. Thanks to a program called Operation Mend, which is designed to help wounded wounded servicemembers and their families, Henline not only got needed surgeries but the inspiration to share his story and launch a comedy career.</p> <p>This week, Henline will take the stage at a comedy club. He says his stand-up comedy routines are a way of standing-up for so many other disfigured veterans who fought for our freedom and now endure whispers and stares as a result of their injuries.</p>
CG: Bobby Henline Turns humor into healing	"The more I get out in public, I'm going to help other veterans, I am going to help other burn survivors, other people with disfigurements that are going to feel more comfortable about who they are. And that's what I like to do with my comedy."
CG: Dr. Timothy Miller UCLA Operation Mend	"The personality of the individual begins to emerge. Someone who in the first consultation barely can say three words was cracking jokes in the operating room and talking non-stop and an entirely different person because, hopefully because, of the surgery."
CG: Bobby Henline Turns humor into healing	"I need to share my story just by continuing to be me and be positive and continuing to live my life to the fullest, one I can help other people with their lives and what they're going through. Two, that's the best revenge I can get for the guys. If I can help more people than that guy's ever hurt."

ANCHOR TAG	This is Military Appreciation Week at LOL Comedy Club in San Antonio, TX where Bobby will perform. Partial proceeds for the week will be donated to various military support groups.
	During the past eight years, 129 injured servicemembers have come to Los Angeles for free reconstructive surgery and other medical services at UCLA through Operation Mend.
 Share it! Suggested tweet:	<i>@Operation_Mend patient @BobbyHenline celebrates #freedom, inspires and entertains through laughter on #July4th: http://bit.ly/1LrIPk7</i>
 Suggested post:	Operation Mend inspired injured vet Bobby Henline to share his humor. This Independence Day, he shows live on stage at a comedy club that laughter truly can be the best medicine.

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For more information on UCLA Operation Mend: <http://operationmend.ucla.edu/>

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