



MEDIA CONTACT:  
Lloret De Mar Pelayo  
312-994-4337

[LDeMarPelayo@nationalable.org](mailto:LDeMarPelayo@nationalable.org)

### **Veteran of the Year Award Presented to U.S. Army Veteran Who Helped Evacuate hundreds of Afghan Allies and Families**

Chicago, Ill. (February 2021) – National Able Network, a female veteran-led workforce organization, presents its 2022 Veteran of the Year award to U.S. Army veteran, France Hoang for his work evacuating our Afghan allies. France, served as the Executive Officer of a U.S. Army Special Forces Company in Southeast Afghanistan. In August 2021, as the situation in Afghanistan unraveled, France took action to support Afghan allies by co-founding the Afghan Departure Group and becoming the Chairman of the Board of Allied Airlift, a non-profit that is facilitating the screening of allies for the evacuation process. The award will be presented to France on May 13, 2022 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon in Chicago, where all previous [Veteran of the Year Award winners](#) are also invited to attend. Proceeds from this event are to be distributed between National Able Network’s Veterans Forward Program and Allied Airlift.

France, in collaboration with his contacts in the aviation and defense communities, coordinated the travel and logistics to evacuate 400 Afghan allies and their families to Mazar-i-Sharif, which is approximately a nine-hour journey over treacherous mountain roads from the city of Kabul. This group boarded the first charter evacuation flight out of Afghanistan after the U.S. ended its military and diplomatic presence. Over the following weeks, dozens of flights from various organizations continued evacuations from Mazar-i-Sharif.

“When I was two, my family was evacuated from Saigon. My mother would be considered a Special Immigrant Visa holder today,” says France, “This work is a continuation of my service, and it is a personal commitment.” In addition to his evacuation efforts, France is a veteran entrepreneur who has been on the founding teams of companies that have generated over \$600 million in combined sales and employed over 1,200 professionals across the fields of law, aerospace, defense, government services, and technology.

Bridget Altenburg, President and CEO of National Able Network says, “France’s passion and efforts across a spectrum of industries is astonishing and impressive, but his most recent endeavor in successful and safe evacuations of Afghan allies solidified our decision to honor and present him with the Veteran of the Year Award on May 13.”

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon is an opportunity to celebrate and support the veteran community. All proceeds from this event are used to support military-to-civilian career transitions

through National Able Network's Veterans Forward programming, and will be used to help continue to evacuate Afghan allies and families.

For more information on the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon, please visit: [www.NationalAble.org/Vets](http://www.NationalAble.org/Vets).

**About National Able Network**

At National Able Network, our mission is to help make careers happen. Each client receives personalized career supports that integrate career coaching, specialized training, and direct connections to the job market. Our programs are designed to assist jobseekers from all backgrounds, including the unemployed, career changers, military veterans, seniors, and aspiring IT professionals. Each year, National Able Network provides service to nearly 76,000 individuals in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

###