Disabled veterans across all service branches were honored on Feb. 25 with the release of the 2010 American Veterans Disabled for Life silver dollar, the first commemorative coin issued by the United States Mint this year. The coin was officially launched at a Capitol Hill reception in Washington, D.C.

Guests included DAV National Commander Bobby Barrera, Director of the United States Mint Ed Moy, former Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation (DVLMF) Director Gordon Mansfield, VA Chief of Staff John Gingrich and former VA Secretary and DVLMF spokesperson Anthony Principi. Representatives of major veterans service organizations also attended the reception hosted by the DVLMF and TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

The limited-edition coin honors more than three million disabled veterans living today and pays tribute to all deceased disabled veterans from throughout our nation’s history. Proceeds from the sale of every coin will go directly to DVLMF to aid in the construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in the nation’s capital.

Commander Barrera noted that this exquisite silver dollar commemorative coin will mean a great deal to veterans, their families and survivors. It will help raise the funds needed to make this memorial a reality. But, just as importantly, the coin will be a poignant affirmation that America honors and values the sacrifices of disabled veterans.

National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, president and co-founder of DVLMF, said, “The coin is forever a reminder of the brave servicemen and women who risked, and continue to risk, their lives in defense of our country’s liberty. Each coin sold brings us one step closer to building a permanent, national memorial to disabled veterans.

Since the coin’s release, the United States Mint reports over 190,000 have been sold. The collector proof and uncirculated silver coins have a maximum mintage of 350,000. To purchase a commemorative coin, please visit www.usmint.gov. For more information about the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, visit www.avdlm.org.