

Donations needed for soldiers in combat zones

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is collecting donations in its main lobby now through Sept. 30 for U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The library and Simi Valley-based MilitaryConnection.com are sponsoring the fundraising drive as part of this year's America Supports You Freedom Walk. The Freedom Walk, which honors veterans and reflects on the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, will be held at 5p.m. Sept. 11.

All items should be left unwrapped and in original packaging. Items currently requested by soldiers include trail mix, peanuts, gum, hard candy, beef jerky, other snacks that will not melt in hot temperatures, individual packets of lemonade or Crystal Light, CDs, DVDs, video games, AA batteries, stationery and prepaid phone cards. Only miniature hygiene items will be accepted.

The walk in September will begin in the library's main courtyard and follow a 1.8-mile course, ending at Rancho Madera Community Park on Wood Ranch Parkway. The first 750 people who register for the walk will receive a Freedom Walk T-shirt and American Flag.

To register, visit <http://www.militaryconnection.com> or call 522-2977.

- From staff reports