

This Veteran's Day CruiseOne® Announced Five Winners of "Operation Vetpreneur: Become Your Own General" Contest

Winners received free franchise and attended training featuring government officials

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (November 12, 2013) – This Veteran's Day, CruiseOne®, the nation's largest home-based and military-friendly franchise travel agent network as part of World Travel Holdings, announced the five winners of its second annual nationwide contest "Operation Vetpreneur: Become Your Own General." The winners received a free travel franchise valued at \$12,700.

The annual contest was open to former members of any of the five branches of the U.S. military (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard) who are retired, off active duty and/or honorably discharged prior to the contest start date this past Memorial Day. Candidates participated in a rigorous three-part application process which included creating a business plan and phone interviews. More than 300 applicants from 40 different states submitted applications for "Operation Vetpreneur." This year's winners included Doug Robinson of Hattiesburg, Miss.; Frank Griffith of Lorain, Ohio; Grant Springer of Edgewater, Md.; Tara Fuentes of Canton, Ga.; and Ted Coates of Baltimore.

"Military veterans are vital to our country's success, both socially and economically," said Tim Courtney, vice president of network development at CruiseOne. "More than one million veterans will be transitioning out of the armed forces in the next two years and franchising provides them with the perfect opportunity to demonstrate their leadership and military skills in a civilian workplace."

The winners attended a weeklong training at CruiseOne's world headquarters in Fort Lauderdale and were honored with a special ceremony featuring city and state officials.

A member of the International Franchise Association's (IFA) VetFran initiative, CruiseOne proudly supports military veterans and is consistently recognized by leading industry publications as a military-friendly franchise. With military veterans accounting for more than 15 percent of its franchise owners, the company's accolades include a number one ranking by *Forbes* in its "Top 10 Military Friendly Franchise" and inclusion on the "Top 100 Vet-Friendly Franchise" lists by *Franchise Business Review* and *1851*, in addition to being named a "Top Franchise for Veterans" by *Opportunity World*. For the past four years, CruiseOne was named to *G.I. Jobs* magazine's Military Friendly Franchises® lists, which represents the top 10 percent of the nation's franchises that are doing the most to support military veterans.

Military veterans interested in joining CruiseOne and learning more about Operation Vetpreneur next year, please visit www.CruiseOneFranchise.com.



Operation Vetpreneur winners from left to right: Frank Griffith, Grant Springer, Ted Coates, Tara Fuentes and Doug Robinson. *Photo Credit: Robert Auclair*

About CruiseOne®

A member of the International Franchise Association (IFA), CruiseOne® is the nation's leading home-based travel agent franchise and is consistently ranked as a franchise leader by *Entrepreneur* and *Forbes*. As part of World Travel Holdings, one of the nation's top travel retail networks, CruiseOne offers consumers the lowest possible pricing on cruise and land vacations through its relationships with every major cruise line and many tour operators. In operation since 1992, CruiseOne has received numerous awards and a top-ranking status by all the major cruise lines including Norwegian Cruise Line®, Royal Caribbean International®, Celebrity Cruises® and Carnival® Cruise Line. For more information, visit www.CruiseOneFranchise.com, like us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/CruiseOneFranchise or follow us on Twitter @CruiseOneBiz.

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