

For Immediate Release:

Avalon and Tahoe Pontoon Boats Partner with Travis Mills Foundation

- 25-foot Avalon GS pontoon boat to be used by combat-injured veterans and their families at the fully accessible Travis Mills Foundation Maine Chance Lodge & Retreat in Rome, Maine
- The Avalon Pontoon boat will allow combat-injured veterans and their families to get out on the water for rest, relaxation and adaptive water sports
- The Travis Mills Foundation supports combat injured veterans and their families through long-term programs that help these heroic men and women overcome physical obstacles, strengthen their families, and provide well-deserved rest and relaxation
- Travis Mills Foundation Maine Chance Lodge opened in the summer of 2017

Alma, Mich., July 25, 2017 – Avalon and Tahoe Manufacturing today announced their partnership with the Travis Mills Foundation, providing a 25-foot Avalon GS model pontoon boat that will be used at the Travis Mills Foundation Maine Chance Lodge & Retreat. Honda Marine provided the power for the pontoon, donating a Honda BF60 outboard motor.

“Avalon and Tahoe Manufacturing are privileged to be able to join with the Travis Mills Foundation by providing the 25-foot GS model for these deserving veterans,” said Jim Wolf, President and CEO, Avalon and Tahoe Manufacturing. “We are honored to be a part of this activity that helps with the reintegration of our heroic combat-injured veterans and their families.”

The Travis Mills Foundation supports combat injured veterans and their families through long-term programs that help these heroic men and women overcome physical obstacles, strengthen their families, and provide well-deserved rest and relaxation.

The Travis Mills Foundation is creating a fully accessible retreat for combat injured veterans and their families. The retreat, located in Rome, Maine, will be a uniquely designed, fully accessible comfortable lodge for relaxation, adaptive sports and family recreation.

The retreat will fill a vital role in the recovery, camaraderie, spousal support, reconnection, relaxation and reintegration of our military heroes – a true and lasting symbol of a grateful nation.

Avalon and Tahoe Manufacturing, maker of Avalon and Tahoe brands of pontoon boats, has been designing and manufacturing high quality, made-in-America pontoon boats in Alma, Michigan for more than 40 years.

“Avalon has a special kinship with SSG Travis Mills, who is a Vassar, Michigan native and Avalon pontoon boat owner,” added Wolf. “Avalon, and our partner Honda Marine, who provided the outboard motor for the pontoon, fully supports the foundation’s mission. Donations and sponsorships are critical to achieving the mission of the Travis Mills Foundation and we encourage others to support the foundation.”

About the Travis Mills Foundation

On April 10, 2012, United States Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills of the 82nd Airborne was critically injured on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan by an IED (improvised explosive device) while on patrol, losing portions of both legs and both arms. He is one of only five quadruple amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive his injuries.

Thanks to his amazing strength, courage, an incredible will to live, the heroic actions of the men in his unit, the prayers of thousands, and all the healthcare providers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, near Washington D.C., Travis remains on the road to recovery. Every day is a battle, but Travis continues to astound friends and family alike with his progress and with his amazing spirit. SSG Travis Mills is a genuine American hero, and for his incredible sacrifice, we are forever in his debt.

In September 2013, Travis founded the Travis Mills Foundation, a nonprofit organization, formed to benefit and assist combat-injured veterans.

Travis also founded the Travis Mills Group, LLC where he consults with and speaks to companies and organizations nationwide inspiring all to overcome life's challenges and adversity.

About Avalon Boats

Avalon is a vertically integrated builder, meaning we make everything—pontoons, framing, furniture, and more—here in our own facility. As a result, we have a much higher degree of control over the production and quality of our products than our competitors, who outsource most of the components.

We work every day with our highly qualified team of experienced welders, furniture makers, assemblers and quality assurance engineers to constantly improve our boats and sustain the incredible level of quality that the Avalon brand is known for. Our expert team is our biggest asset. Everyone here is committed to making sure every piece of every boat down to the smallest detail is perfect.

At Avalon, we believe that our people are the best in the industry, and because of them, our record of high performance does not surprise us at all. Over 40 years ago, we were already producing the finest U.S.A. manufactured pontoon boats, and it's only gotten better from there.

About Honda Marine

Honda Marine, a division of American Honda Motor Co., Inc., markets a complete range of marine outboard motors. Its comprehensive product line is powered exclusively by four-stroke engines. Honda pioneered four-stroke engine technology and has been designing and building four-stroke outboard engines for more than 50 years, setting the benchmark for fuel efficiency, quiet operation and low emissions. With models ranging from 2.3 to 250 horsepower, the Honda Marine full line of current production models meets the rigorous California Air Resources Board (CARB) 3-star standards, enabling availability and regulatory compliance in all 50 states.