

Stater Bros. donates vans to vets' hospital

By Stephen Wall
Staff Writer

LOMA LINDA — Jack Brown has made a name for himself as the head of Southern California's largest privately owned supermarket chain.

On Tuesday, he didn't want to focus on his business.

"This morning, I'm more proud to be a vet than anything else," said Brown, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of San Bernardino-based Stater Bros. Markets.

Brown, who served in the Navy from 1956 to 1962, delivered two white minivans that his company donated to the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Medical Center.

The \$50,000 to buy the vans was raised at a golf tournament put on last year by Stater Bros. Charities, the company's nonprofit arm.

The vans, which can accommodate up to six passengers, will be used to transport veterans to medical appointments at the hospital and other veterans' health-care facilities.

Brown handed the keys to the vans to Medical Center Director Donald Moore at a ceremony outside the hospital.

"Without the generosity of people like Jack Brown and Stater Bros., these veteran patients would not be able to come to the hospital and our clinics for care," Moore said.

The vans are emblazoned with the emblems of the five military branches, the VA seal and the Stater Bros. logo.

"America's No. 1 priority should be

taking care of our vets," Brown said. "We're here to try to help them get healed. It's a debt America owes."

The coordinator of a nonprofit organization that provides free transportation for veterans said the vans will be a great asset.

"This gives us a chance to pick up even more veterans," said Eric Porche, hospital service coordinator for the Disabled American Veterans.

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