

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **World's Longest Trans-Atlantic Flats Boat Voyage Benefits Wounded Heroes**

*Dallas-based I Am Second Inspires and Interstate Batteries Powers Expedition*

**DALLAS, June 26, 2009** – Two Florida brothers, **Ralph and Robert Brown**, will take to the high seas on the world's longest trans-Atlantic voyage in a 21-foot flats boat on June 27 to raise \$3 million for military charities in the name of fallen Marines. [The I Am Second Wounded Hero Voyage Crossing the Atlantic Presented by Interstate Batteries](#) will embark on a 48-day, 6,200-mile trip from Tampa, Fla., to Hamburg, Germany that includes 20 stops along the North American and European Atlantic coasts.

The Browns will use the *Intruder-21*, the same vessel which landed them in the “Guinness Book of World Records” in 2007. The pair is out to prove the humble boat they designed and built, capable of sailing in two inches of water, can also weather the rough Atlantic seas. The trip fulfills a 29-year promise by Marine veteran Ralph Brown to honor three fallen comrades (Sgt. John D. Harvey, Cpl. George N. Holmes Jr. and Staff Sgt. Dewey L. Johnson) who died on a 1980 mission.

The brothers will sell T-shirts and attract sponsors to raise money benefitting active and retired military personnel through the USO, Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Wounded Warrior Regiment, Military Ministry, Help for Heroes (Britain) and a Canadian organization to be determined. The ambitious voyage embodies the mission of the [I am Second](#) movement and is sponsored by Interstate Batteries, which provided three of its “outrageously dependable” batteries to power the boat.

“This trip became a reality when I recently met Norm Miller at a prayer meeting,” said Ralph Brown. “We had volunteers and donated gear but no major sponsors to fund the voyage until I am Second and Interstate Batteries came onboard.”

Miller, Interstate Batteries Chairman, is the visionary behind I am Second, a campaign designed to help people discover their purpose in life by putting God first. On the [IamSecond.com](#) Web site, celebrities, athletes, pastors and everyday people share their personal stories of struggle, transformation and restoration.

“Ralph's incredible faith and unwavering patriotism allow him to realize this monumental voyage and remember his fallen comrades,” said Miller. “These brothers embody the true meaning of I am Second and we're honored to be a part of their selfless journey.”

For more information about the voyage (including a schedule of ports), I am Second or Interstate Batteries, please visit [www.crosstheatlantic.com](#), [www.iamsecond.com](#) and [www.interstatebatteries.com](#).

### **About I am Second**

*I am Second is an Internet-driven outreach tool supported by market-exclusive advertising campaigns featuring video testimonies of hope, inspiration and transformation by individuals from all walks of life, based on their personal faith journeys. Participants include American Idol contestant Jason Castro, former Korn band member Brian “Head” Welch and Texas Rangers All-Star Josh Hamilton. Since the site launched in December 2008, I am Second has had nearly 1 million unique visitors from 191 countries. Dallas-based e3 Partners Ministry, which created I am Second, has complemented the Web site with creative, targeted billboard, TV and radio media buys and kiosk advertising in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. e3 Partners plans to expand the campaign into other markets later this fall.*

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### **About Interstate Batteries**

*Founded in 1952 and based in Dallas, Texas, Interstate Batteries is comprised of a privately held group of companies who sell, market and distribute all types of batteries and related products. Its member companies operate retail All Battery Center stores, provide franchising opportunity and support, and distribution through a state-of-the-art distribution center in Des Moines, Iowa. Interstate Batteries also provides products and services for motive and critical power needs through PowerCare Service and Solutions, Inc. Interstate Batteries is “#1 in Batteries,” best known for its system of nearly 300 distributors who service more than 200,000 locations selling automotive, marine/RV, commercial and other types of SLI products throughout the United States, Canada and select international locations.*

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