



**GALA  
2007**

**For Immediate Release  
Saturday, October 13, 2007**

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## **USO Gala and Auction A Grand Success USO Puget Sound hits new records in attendance and fundraising**

SEATTLE – The USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) hit new records in attendance and fundraising for the 2007 Red, White, and Blue Gala and Auction on Friday, Oct. 12 at Qwest Field's Wells Fargo West Lounge. Nearly 400 people joined top business and community leaders, raising over \$310,000 dollars for the USOPSA and Operation Enduring Care to support wounded service members and their families.

Tod Leiweke, CEO of the Seattle Seahawks and USO Gala honorary chairman, said, "It's an honor for the Seahawks to host the Puget Sound USO Gala. For service members on duty around the world, the USO serves as a 'Home Team' connection that troops and their families can rely on. We're proud to be part of the USO team."

During the auction, Leiweke donated 2 additional 2008 Super Bowl XLII tickets for a total of 4 tickets that were auctioned at \$8,500 dollars. Auction items included; a trip to New York City for a personal meeting with Martha Stewart and VIP status at her home show; a trip for 2 to Orcas Island and lunch with former Apollo 8 astronaut William Anders, and a VIP tour of Starbucks corporate headquarters, including the Kent Starbucks Roasting Facilities – coffee included.

Tom Jaffa, USO Gala co-chairperson and president of The Jaffa Company, said this year's gala topped all years in attendance and support. "People continue to recognize the value of what the USO does to help boost troop morale and build community support for military families. The fundraising success now puts the USO in a position to expand Operation Enduring Care and to provide a 'touch of home' to service members recovering from wounds at Madigan Hospital at Fort Lewis and for their families."

This year marked a first time media sponsorship for the gala with Seattle-based radio station KTTH The Truth providing promotional support. Cathy Cangiano, director of marketing for Bonneville Seattle, parent company of KTTH, said Bonneville has launched a new community outreach effort and wanted to recognize the valuable work of the USO Puget Sound.

"We are extremely happy to show our support for the USO Puget Sound's 2007 Gala. We recognize



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the importance of volunteer work and strongly encourage our employees to volunteer in the communities in which we live. With that in mind, we 'salute' the many volunteers who have kept the USOPSA running around the clock, and have shown our military the respect and care they deserve," Cangiano said.

Longtime USO supporter, Bob Watt, vice president of State and Local Government Relations and Global Corporate Citizenship, The Boeing Company, said, "Boeing is honored to provide resources that help USO Puget Sound Area in its daily efforts to provide essential services that improve the lives of our young men and women on active duty, and their families in this region. We proudly support this year's USO Gala celebration in recognition of the commitment and dedicated service of our U.S. military."

"I know first-hand the good work of the USO," said TriWest Healthcare Alliance President and CEO David McIntyre, Jr., and USO board member. "I've seen traveling service members resting comfortably at USO centers here in Seattle and at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, and I've heard their enthusiastic applause at USO shows. These dedicated service members and their families need and deserve the USO, and I'm thrilled to be a part of this proud organization and eager to provide TriWest's wholehearted support of the USO and its programs."

Auction highlights included 40 custom cakes and pastries donated by local bakeries. Each table bid to have a "first-round pick" of the beautiful cakes and pastries. The first place bid topped at \$1,300 for the evening's top dessert.

"Lockheed Martin has a long-standing and positive partnership with the USO," said Lockheed Martin's Bernie Thompson, who serves as the Vice Chairman for Community Relations for the USO of the Puget Sound Area. "We are honored to work with such a tremendous organization. The USO is propelled by extremely talented and hard-working individuals who are dedicated to providing uplifting services to our troops and their families," Thompson said.

For more information go to [www.usopsa.org](http://www.usopsa.org)

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**About the USO Puget Sound:** *Nationally recognized, the USO Puget Sound has served over 3 million of America's men and women in uniform and their families for over 40 years. The mission of USO Puget Sound is to provide a "home away from home," family support, and recreation opportunities to the members and families of our Armed Forces. As a private, nonprofit organization, the USO works to connect individuals, civic groups and businesses in service to the region's military community.*





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