



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mark's Hallmark Stores and the USO Puget Sound Area Connect Local Military Families for the Holidays via "Storybooks for Soldiers Donation Drive"

Program will distribute more than 3,000 recordable storybook copies of "The Night Before Christmas" and "Frosty the Snowman" to local military families as gifts for troops stationed overseas

SEATTLE, WA – 'Twas the month before Christmas, and all through the Sound, a special treat for our troops, is overseas bound; recordable books bring holiday cheer, voices of loved ones back home they will hear; the cost of our freedom, a sacrifice they bear, the least we can do, let's show them we care.

Mark's Hallmark stores and the USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) today announced the "Storybooks for Soldiers Donation Drive," which will distribute 3,000 recordable storybook copies of "The Night Before Christmas" and "Frosty the Snowman" free of charge to local military families as gifts for troops stationed overseas. The USOPSA will distribute the books to military personnel and families via the USO centers at SeaTac Airport, Joint Base Lewis McChord, and military installations throughout the Puget Sound region.

Books will be provided to servicemembers deployed overseas, to record their voice reading to their children, and send a book home in time for the holidays. Children and families at home can also record their voices as a treasured gift to a parent or relative stationed overseas.

"As a retired Navy father, I can't think of a better holiday surprise than to receive a classic holiday book while deployed overseas and hear my spouse or child reading the story," said Don Leingang, USOPSA executive director and Commander USN (Ret.). "We are excited about this partnership with Mark's Hallmark stores and what it means for our military families."

"We would like to thank all of our nation's brave men and women in uniform this holiday season for their dedication and sacrifice," said Wayne Lawless of Mark's Hallmark Gold Crown stores. "We are honored to be able to bring our military families closer together for the holidays, and we invite our neighbors from all over the Puget

Sound to participate by making a small donation at any one of our area stores this month.”

To make a donation in support of this program, please visit any one of Mark’s Hallmark’s 40 locations in Washington, Oregon, Northern California, and Hawaii by November 28. Puget Sound area locations include: The Tacoma Mall, Southcenter Mall, Covington Square, Renton’s Benson Center, Issaquah Town and Country Square, Northgate Mall, Kirkland Park Place, Totem Lake Mall, Alderwood Mall, Mill Creek, Mount Vernon, and downtown Seattle on 4th Avenue. All donated funds will go toward providing recordable storybooks to U.S. military personnel and families.

The USOPSA is private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the military by providing morale, welfare and recreation-type services to our men and women in uniform throughout the Puget Sound Area.

For additional information, or to schedule interviews (press-only), please contact Nate Murphy at Kitsap Public Relations (nate@kitsap-pr.com), (206) 618-2790).

About Mark’s Hallmark Stores

Founded in 1965 in Tacoma, Washington, Mark's Hallmark is a 100% employee owned company with 40 stores in Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, and California. Mark’s Hallmark stores offer a wide variety of social expression products including cards for all occasions, new technology items such as recordable story books, photo albums, cards, interactive plush and ornaments, as well as gift wrap and bags, and a wide array of gifts including women's fashion accessories, home decor items and popular trend items such as Webkinz and Silly Bandz.

For more information about Mark’s Hallmark stores, please visit us online at: <http://www.markshallmark.com>.

About USO Puget Sound Area

For nearly 45 years, the USO Puget Sound Area has provided ‘all the comforts of home’ to our brave military personnel and their families, via the USOPSA centers at Sea-Tac Airport and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the USO Mobile Canteen, special events, and deployments and homecomings at military installations throughout the Puget Sound region.

The USO Puget Sound Area is a private, non-profit organization, and a chartered center of USO Headquarters in Washington, D.C., not a government agency. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers and donors. We are also supported through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-15348).

For more information on how to volunteer, or to make a tax-deductible donation to the USO Puget Sound Area, visit us online at: <http://www.usopsa.org>. Show your support for our military and follow the USOPSA on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/USOPSA>) and Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/USOPSA>).

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