



USO Puget Sound Area “Red, White & Blue Golf Classic” Shatters Fundraising and Attendance Records for 45th Anniversary

Annual USO golf tournament, dinner and auction attracts more than 400 golfers and attendees, and raises more than \$380,000 in support of local military

SEATTLE – May 26, 2011 – The USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) today announced results from the largest and most successful golf tournament and celebration in the organization’s 45-year history. The 16th Annual USO “Red, White & Blue Golf Classic,” held Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at The Golf Club at Newcastle, attracted more than 400 golfers and attendees, and raised more than \$380,000 in support of local active-duty military, their families and wounded warriors.

“This is truly a landmark occasion for the USO as we bring together local business leaders, members of all five military branches, Seattle sports legends, and the public to honor the service and sacrifice of our local military heroes and their families,” said Don Leingang, USO Executive Director and Commander, USN (Ret.)

This year’s golf tournament was the largest in USOPSA history, with more than 300 golfers playing over a combined 36 holes on Newcastle’s Coal Creek and China Creek courses. More than 100 local active-duty military and wounded warriors participated, including six all-military teams representing each of the five branches of the U.S. armed forces. Several current and former Seattle Seahawks also played in the tournament including Celebrity Chairman and former Seattle Seahawks Fullback Mack Strong, Max Unger, Roy Lewis, Brian Russell and Nesby Glasgow. The U.S. Navy team took home top golf honors and the USOPSA Military Cup.

A special addition to this year’s tournament was the new All-Services Team, which included one military member from each of the services. General John Shalikashvili (Ret.), and his wife and USOPSA Board Member Joan Shalikashvili, sponsored the inaugural appearance of the All-Services Team. The General, who is a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended the tournament and saluted participating military teams before tournament play commenced.

This year’s tournament, dinner and auction was sponsored by more than 75 companies including Boeing, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Lockton, Samsung, Pinnacle Family of Companies, The Seattle Seahawks, The Seattle Mariners, Virginia Mason Hospital & Medical Center and many more.

“Supporting the USO and our local military is a civic duty,” said Stan Harrelson, USOPSA Golf Committee Chairman, USOPSA Board Member and Pinnacle Family of Companies President and CEO. “Our brave men and women in uniform and their families deserve our respect and support, and for Pinnacle and many of our other sponsors, supporting the USO represents a promise kept to those who defend our freedoms.”

Prior to the tournament, golfers and spectators enjoyed a welcome ceremony and luncheon featuring opening remarks from Mack Strong, USOPSA Chairman of the Board Malcolm McLellan, Stan Harrelson, and Don Leingang. Festivities included a Korean War-era M*A*S*H* unit, a missing man formation aircraft flyover from the Arlington-based Blackjack Squadron, an 18-gun salute from the USMC 4th Landing Support Battalion, a military golf cart decorating contest, music from the Snohomish High School Wind Ensemble, and the presentation of the colors courtesy of the Issaquah High School Navy Junior ROTC Color Guard.

Mack Strong hosted a post-tournament dinner celebration and auction attended by more than 350 prominent business leaders, civic leaders, celebrities, USOPSA board and staff members, and active-duty military and wounded warriors. Dinner highlights include an MIA / POW tribute ceremony performed by The Todd Beamer High School Air Force Junior ROTC, and a standing ovation for Graham, WA-resident and USO World Volunteer of the Year 2010 Herb Schmeling. The evening's auction was presided over by John Curley, auctioneer and host of The John Curley Show on News Talk 97.3 KIRO FM.

The USO Puget Sound Area would like to thank all of the sponsors that made the "Red, White & Blue Golf Classic" 2011 possible, including AT&T, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, COINFORCE.com, Dick's Drive-In Restaurants, The Tacoma Rainiers, International Parking Management, El Gaucho, Famous Dave's BBQ, Mike's Hard Lemonade, OKI Golf, Pro Golf Discounts, Red Robin, Starbucks, Walgreens, the Waterfront Seafood Grill, Inferno Pizza and many more. For a full list of event sponsors, please visit the USO event website at: <http://www.usopsa.org/golf>.

The USOPSA serves more than half a million local and traveling active-duty military, dependents, retired military, and reservists annually across all five service branches and more than 4,000 square miles of Puget Sound.

For more information or to sponsor future USOPSA events and programs, please visit the USO Puget Sound Area online at: <http://www.usopsa.org>.

To schedule interviews (press-only), please contact:

- Nate Murphy, Kitsap Public Relations, (206) 618-2790, nate@kitsap-pr.com

About USO Puget Sound Area

For 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>), Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/USOPSA>), and YouTube (<http://www.facebook.com/USOPSA>).