

“Godfather of Fort Lewis” Named 2010 USO Volunteer of the Year

Joint Base Lewis-McChord USO Volunteer Herb Schmeling to be honored at USO Puget Sound Area Gala October 1st and the USO HQ Washington DC Gala October 7th

SEATTLE, WA – Sept. 16, 2010 – The USO Puget Sound Area (USO PSA) today announced that Herb Schmeling, Graham, WA-resident and USO volunteer at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, has been selected as the 2010 USO Headquarters Volunteer of the Year. Herb will be honored at the USO Puget Sound Area’s annual Gala celebration on October 1 at the Museum of Flight, and will travel to Washington, D.C. on October 7 to accept this national award in recognition of his service. He will also receive the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge Award for Excellence on October 25 in Washington DC.



“We’re extremely thankful for the commitment and enthusiasm that Herb displays day in and day out as a USO Puget Sound Area volunteer,” said Don Leingang, USO Puget Sound Area Executive Director and Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired). “He inspires everyone around him and we are very pleased that Herb has been recognized as the “Top Volunteer” from amongst the thousands of volunteers in the USO Family worldwide. He embodies what our organization is about – volunteers who selflessly make a difference for the betterment of our military and military families. Herb is an excellent pick for USO Volunteer of the Year.”

Known affectionately as the “Godfather of Fort Lewis,” Herb routinely volunteers 60 – 80 hours a month, and is often on-call, ready at a moment’s notice to help the USO PSA provide “all of the comforts of home” to our brave military personnel and their families. He also represents the USO PSA at Combined Federal Campaign events and Family Deployment Fairs, ensuring local military personnel and their families are familiar with the full range of programs and services the USO provides. Herb has also been instrumental in the success of holiday food drives, helping to serve holiday meals to more than 400 local military families.

Herb is part of the USO PSA’s “Army of Gratitude,” which includes more than 300 area volunteers that donate their time at the organization’s SeaTac Airport and Joint Base Lewis-McChord centers. Last year alone, USO Puget Sound Area volunteers served almost half a

million military personnel and their families, and the organization is on track to serve even more service members in 2010.

The USO Puget Sound Area centers provides a range of services to military personnel and their families including travel assistance, sleeping quarters, showers and hygiene supplies, meals and snacks, a full nursery for families traveling with children, entertainment, care packages, free Internet and e-mail access, recreational opportunities, troop deployments and homecoming events, community services for military families, and support for single members of the military.

About USO Puget Sound Area

For nearly 45 years, the USO Puget Sound Area has provided 'all of the comforts of home' to our brave military personnel and their families, via the USO PSA centers at SeaTac 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>.

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

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