



NEWSLETTER



USO Insider, Volunteer Newsletter

Chairman of the Board News; Thomas Jaffa

Volume 10 Issue 03

March 2010

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Thank you all for a wonderful 2009 USOPSA year. As I reflect back on all of the successes of this outstanding year, I can't help but think about all of the super volunteer efforts that our USOPSA team contributes at all levels. From the volunteer work done at McChord and SeaTac, with outreach efforts through the Mobile Canteen and various programs to the contributions made by our hardworking volunteer Board of Directors – our volunteer team demonstrates every day why we are a 5 Star organization!

The precious men and women who serve our nation and their families deserve the very best that we can offer. I think we do a marvelous job supporting them. However, without you and your caring efforts we couldn't fulfill our important mission.

As I move forward in my second year as your Chairman of the Board, I am very proud of the efforts of the entire team that includes our hardworking staff lead by Don Leingang (can you believe that he is going to complete his second year as our Executive Director in a few months? Wow!). Thanks – Don, Sylvia, Tracey and Sam for all you do. It is hard to imagine that we accomplish as much as we do with such a “lean” staff – but, all the more reason we appreciate you, the volunteers.

I would like to offer a warm thank you to my fellow Board Members who may not be as visible to our other volunteers – but who are incredibly dedicated and passionate about the USO mission. Special thanks and heartfelt appreciation is extended to three very special individuals who have contributed enormously to the success of USOPSA – who retired from the Board at our December meeting: MG Tom Cole who served the better part of two decades as a key Board Member – making so many contributions on so many levels; Jim Mendenhall who fulfilled a tough and extremely important role as our Treasurer for several years and Donna Rosenberg who contributed in so many ways to the well being of USOPSA... not the least of which was serving as the Board Vice Chair overseeing our very successful fundraising events. Most recently she and Joan Shalikashvili co-Chaired our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon which was another huge success. At our December meeting we acknowledged these three exceptional volunteers with the presentation of plaques and we welcomed our newest Board Member – Kyle McCoy, a veteran and up and coming business leader.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of 2009 including our Golf Tournament team; our Gala team; other events and committees and of course, those of you on the front lines meeting and greeting the troops and doing the day to day tasks that are so important. In this article, I would like to introduce you to our 2010 Volunteer Leadership Team, elected by the Board: Chair-Elect, Malcolm McClellan (who has been an enormous support to me); Secretary, Aaron Kornblum; new Treasurer, Tom Sporar; Vice Chairs: Carol Beaudu, John Drescher, Mike Flood, Jim Gordon and Sarah Rindlaub... Rounding out the team is immediate Past Chair, George Cargill. My appreciation is extended to all of these folks for stepping up and their continued efforts along with our terrific Board who continue to work diligently toward our successful mission achievement.

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USO PUGET SOUND AREA – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Thomas E. Jaffa, CTP** Chairman,
President & CEO, The Jaffa
Company
- **Malcolm McLellan** -
Vice Chairman
Partner,
Van Ness Feldman PC
- **Aaron E. Kornblum** -
Secretary
Director, IEB Security Policy
XBOX/Games for Windows
- **Tom Sporar** -
Treasurer,
T.R Sporar, CPA
- **Sarah Rindlaub** -
Vice Chair for Board
Development,
Professional Business Woman
- **James Gordon** -
Vice Chair for Programs,
First Vice President, Wealth
Management, Smith Barney
- **Mike Flood** -
Vice Chair Community
Relations/ PR
Vice President, Community
Relations, Seattle Seahawks
- **Carol Beaudu** -
Vice Chair Resource
Development,
CJB Associates
- **John Drescher** -
Vice Chair Outreach to Young
Leaders,
Executive Director, Tech Net
- **George Cargill** -
Immediate Past Chairman,
Vice President for Operations
Northwest Region
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Chairman of the Board News cont'

I was asked to share some of my favorite memories of 2009. There are so many great things that we achieved, however, here are just a few...

- ◆ Learning that we were selected as a Five STAR USO operation
- ◆ Visiting McChord and SeaTac Centers and seeing our team in action
- ◆ Attending events with "Wounded Warriors"
- ◆ Responding to a friend's idea about the Sassoon Salon offering "free make-over" for service members and spouses... and seeing this through from inception to a super event
- ◆ Participating with fellow Board Members and others at special events such as the Gift Wrapping night at ORVIS
- ◆ Representing USOPSA with Don, Sylvia, Tracye and Sam on the field at the M's Armed Forces Night
- ◆ Participating in two Tacoma Rainier Military Nights – especially seeing Sylvia throw the first pitch!
- ◆ Attending the Golf Tournament and festivities (watching our hard working volunteers in action)
- ◆ Attending the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and having the opportunity to personally thank each volunteer in attendance
- ◆ Having the opportunity to meet and invite USO President & CEO, Sloan Gibson to come and visit us... then spending 3 wonderful days escorting him to our Centers, Community Events and introducing him to key Community Leaders and of course, having him share the experience of our 2009 5 Star Gala where he was "wowed" by what our small staff and team of volunteers accomplished – a Best Ever Event!

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*Until everyone
comes home....*

I am most grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve with you all in support of those who serve our nation. Thank you for all you do and for enriching the lives of those you touch. Looking forward to continuing our work together toward a fabulous 2010.

Warm regards,
Tom Jaffa
Chairman of the Board

Service to the military – it's what USO Puget Sound is all about

For the unaccompanied military member or military family on the move, the USO provides a "home away from home" at our facilities in the SeaTac Airport and McChord Air Force Base USO Centers. For the single service person, the USO is working with on-base partners to enhance recreational or entertainment opportunities and to expand that bit of home to special occasion dinners or community hospitality. The USO Care Package program for deploying forces and regional care package programs in cooperation with USO service partners also project "touch of home" to those in harm's way.

Sea-Tac USO Center provides:

- 24-hour assistance
- Meals and snack bar
- Sleeping quarters
- Shower/hygiene supplies
- X-box, large screen TV
- WiFi Internet access
- Nursery and children's toys and books

McChord USO Center provides:

- USO Care Package distribution
- Open for troop homecomings and deployment
- Lounge area and TV
- Meals and snack bar
- Computer and Internet access
- Library, writing supplies
- Hub for family services and community outreach in the South Sound

SeaTac USO Birthdays!

Diana Miller	9/6	Charlotte Larson	10/25	Dennis Hamilton	12/31
Mary Lou Call	9/10	Diana Miller	10/25	Kathy Fehlings	1/1
Anita Shores	9/10	Helene Pedrazzini	10/25	Harold Schenne	1/1
Diane Livingston	9/11	Linda Holman	10/27	Joan Jennings	1/3
Don Fehlings	9/11	Renate Higerson	11/1	Gay Hendricks	1/5
Gabrele Swe	9/12	Nilli Easterbrooke	11/4	Jerry Morris	1/5
Jean Hill	9/19	Lorian Maddox	11/5	Carole Jo Williams	1/6
Melodee Younts	9/21	Doc Huff	11/7	Tammy Frederickson	1/7
Mark Stenson	9/27	Frances Parker	11/12	Phyllis Engstrom	1/10
Linda Matheson	9/30	Marian Herrin	11/15	Margaret Lindberg	1/11
Dick Booth	10/5	John Swan	11/15	Diane Belanger	1/12
Diana Davis	10/5	Nola Strecker	11/18	Linda Hagen	1/18
Edith Maffeo	10/6	Judith Leyden	11/21	Ed Willert	1/18
W. Bryan Hayward	10/7	Dennis Fehrenbach	11/24	A. J. Bilderback	1/25
Iris McBride	10/8	Jim Roper	11/27	Eleanor Skinner	1/30
James Hanson	10/10	Ann Schneider	11/27	Vicki Tinkler	2/2
Ingrid Dunton	10/12	Molly Younts	11/28	Jim Hagen	2/3
Karen Madison	10/12	Arlene Bales	11/29	Barbara Mjelde	2/4
Fred Behremann	10/13	Nina Cross	12/1	Don Cowan	2/7
David Lester	10/13	Susanne Bradley	12/3	Phil Bursett	2/10
Janet Hasteed	10/15	Dean Quigley	12/4	Frank Steenerson	2/10
Anne Erickson	10/15	Linda Landerdah	12/7	Stephen Swartz	2/22
Anton Riksen	10/20	Alan Shores	12/11	Carol Nyseth	2/27
Frank Carruthers	10/22	Sarge Carter	12/13		
Dick Gates	10/24	Michelle Palmer	12/22		
Tish Greenman	10/24	Janet Graham	12/28		

McChord USO Birthdays!

Terry Downs	9/12	Linda Rego	11/17	Freddie Ellis	1/15
Christina Leavitt	9/20	Dennis Fehrenbach	11/24	Dottie Cole	1/19
Sue Goering	9/22	Jane Hughes	11/24	John Downs	1/19
Kaycie Schloer	9/26	Anne Johnson	11/24	Yvonne Anderson	1/27
Ron Blatman	9/30	Tineke Geringer	11/29	Angela Davis	2/1
Larry Smith	10/2	Nancy Black	11/29	Ayako Campbell	2/7
Carolyn Orwiler	10/8	Carolyn Abrahams	12/9	Don Booth	2/12
Aida Nunez-Cortes	10/15	Linda Russell	12/12	Mary Anderson	2/20
Ella Young	10/18	Stacey Lorange	12/20	Duncan Manning	2/20
Floyd "Mac" McDaniel	10/29	Belinda Hernandez	12/29	Wanda Motonaga	2/23
Cindy Norris	11/3	Wayne Jackson	12/28	Christa LaBranche	2/27
Kristie King	11/12	Loyd Case	1/6	Kathy Marzolf	2/28
Trudi Royse	11/14	Samuel Martin	1/8	Anna Shetlin	2/28

Special Days for McChord & Sea-Tac Volunteers!

USO New Volunteers

McChord

Carolyn Abrahams
Ayako Campbell
Dennis Fehrenbach
Maureen Fehrenbach
Christina Leavitt
Samuel Martin
Gerald Miller
Sheila Nguyen
Roy Sowerby
Jennifer Winters
Jerome Fredrikson
Mary Fredrikson
Daniel Hammes
Sherrod Hitch
Lindsey Kanno
Elisabeth Layton
Maranda Mackmer
Brian McDaniel
Jean-Marie Munday
Mario Navora
Carolyn Ohlson
Peggy Roy
Larry Smith
Chuck Strong
Franklin Reid

SeaTac

Nina Cross
Michael Engen
David Frederickson
Linda Frederickson
Carole Sykes
Heidi Tennet
Stefanie Trumla
Monica Delvaux
Sharon Hagen
JoAnn McCord
Tanya Nielsen
Duane Schooley
Timothy Wiglin



*Wishing a very Happy Birthday to all
and a big Welcome to all of our new volunteers!
I know you will all enjoy being a volunteer
with the USO.*

McChord USO News

McChord USO Past Events:

Oct 7th and 8th Jumpstart Read for the Record conducted by McChord USO volunteer, Sharon Coward and Sheryl Swory at Carter Lake Elementary School and the McChord Child Development Center for 200+ children

Oct 9th USOPSA Gala at the Museum of Flight

Oct 10th Sloan Gibson visit to the SeaTac USO Center and McChord USO Center

Oct 15th 2/75 Ranger Regiment Deployment Fair at Ft. Lewis.

Oct 20th Tracye Kakely, McChord USO Center Manager participated in the Fort Lewis Deployed Spouse Meal

Oct 24th McChord USO volunteers had a fabulous time during the McChord Backyard Blast at the McChord Youth Center. Participants brought a non-perishable food item to donate to the USO Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Nov 7th Tracye Kakely, McChord USO Center Manager and volunteers participated in the Children's Deployment Fair at Evergreen Elementary School on Fort Lewis.

United Through Reading Program

From Gina Luplow, McChord USO Volunteer



At the McChord USO, we offer a wonderful program called United Through Reading for military members who are preparing to deploy. It is a thirty minute DVD recording where a military member can read a book, talk, sing, etc to their child.

For the most part, it is a way for the deploying military member to stay connected with their child through a story, words of advice and/or encouragement while they are gone. I have been a volunteer at the McChord USO for almost two years, and having the opportunity to witness the tears of joy of some of our deploying military members when they have a chance to record themselves is a tremendous personal reward.

McChord USO News Cont'd

McChord USO Highlights

Aug 2nd The USO Mobile Canteen and McChord USO Volunteers finished off the last day of SEAFAIR!

August 7th Ken and Freddie Ellis and Herb Schmeling participated in the Fort Lewis Surviving Spouse at American Lake on Fort Lewis. They had a table with USO information and giveaways.

Aug 14th Tracye Kakely, McChord Center Manager and Christa LaBranche, McChord USO volunteer participated in the McChord Match-Up Picnic on McChord AFB. They had a table with USO information and giveaways.

Sept 28th Tracye Kakely, McChord Center Manager participated in the McChord Deployed Family Dinner at the McChord Chapel Center providing information to our spouses of deployed Airmen. The theme was "Fall onto the Groove!"



Monthly Reminder

All McChord USO Volunteers must have their Food Handlers Permit by now. If you still do not have your Food Handlers Permit, you cannot work in the kitchen. The McChord Medical Clinic no longer offers the Food handlers Class. Once you take the Food Handlers class your local Department of Public Health, bring Tracye a copy of your Food handlers permit once you receive your card.

If you have not reviewed the USOPSA Volunteer Manual and signed the Statement of Understanding, contact Tracye for that paperwork.

For your safety and the safety of the customers that we serve, the high interest notable items are:

- that volunteers always wear gloves when handling consumables and change gloves between activities
- food items are stored, prepared, and served properly observing expiration dates, temperatures and labeling prepared foods with the date prepared (be aware of the date on the milk)
- All volunteers must wear either a hairnet or USO hat while working in the kitchen.

Message From McChord ~ Tracye Kakely, Center Manager

We are so excited to have the capabilities to continue our Volunteer Newsletter. Many thanks to Tara-Lyn Poole for keeping us on schedule and using her "wizard" skills in creating our Volunteer Newsletter. It is a wonderful way to keep communication with both the SeaTac and McChord volunteers.

There has been a lot of activity happening at the McChord USO. We have been renovating the Center most of the summer and are expected to update the kitchen and purchase a new walk-in refrigerator in November 2009.

We have deployed over 27,000+ military personnel over the Spring and Summer through the McChord USO Center. I want to thank every McChord USO volunteer who gave freely of their time and talent to see off our military personnel during this busy season.

The next time somebody asks you why you volunteer or what the USOPSA does, just refer them to our website at www.usopsa.org and there will be great coverage of who we serve, how we serve and ways they can be part of the USO team.

USOPSA Thanksgiving Food Drive

The McChord and Seatac USO collected non-perishable food items for our military families for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The deadline for collecting the items was Friday, November 13th in order to get the food by the Thanksgiving Holiday. The food boxes were placed in the Seatac and McChord USO and various McChord Services Buildings.

The following items are being requested:

- ◆ Dry Stuffing
- ◆ Canned Vegetable
- ◆ Gravy
- ◆ Canned Cranberry Sauce
- ◆ Instant Potatoes
- ◆ Canned Yams
- ◆ Canned Olives

We will then be distributing the items to our military families through our Family Readiness Groups. For any questions, contact Tracye Kakely, McChord USO Manager at 253-589-8772 or e-mail: Tracye@usopsa.org

~ USO Events & Info ~

At our 2009 Five Star Gala, 44 military families were spotlighted on each of our 44 tables. Each attendee had the opportunity to donate money in order to have their family win top prize. The Johnson family was the winner of our grand prize give away at our 2009 Gala (thank you note below). Check out their experience! Thank you to our wonderful supporters!

To All,

From myself and my family we would love to extend our thanks and appreciation on the trip to Disneyland. For us it was the most fun and exciting thing we have ever done as



a family. As a military member the opportunity almost passed us by, but thanks to the USO and the friends there at Disney we had a once in a lifetime experience. My daughter who is in a wheelchair didn't have to miss any of the fun, and my son was able to ride all the rides at both attractions. It was out of his world. Again I thank all involved ~ Jason Johnson



USOPSA supported Cub Scout Pack 462 by providing funds to purchase Pinewood Derby kits for the kids. 100% of these children live on post and 80% have a deployed parent... USOPSA is proud to be there!

High school friend of Admiral Herb Bridge, Colonel Bruce Meyers, stopped at the USO Puget Sound Area to make a donation in honor of the Seattle



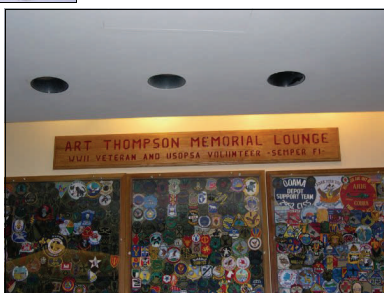
MOAA. It was great seeing the two high school buddies reunite! A special thanks to our friends at the Seattle MOAA for assisting our military and their families through their donation to the USO Puget Sound Area.



February 11th—USOPSA celebrated the Birthday of the USO and dedicated a plaque in honor of Art Thompson!

Art passed away on Jan. 5, 2010 at the age of 85. He was a volunteer at the USO-Puget Sound for 17 years! Art served in the Marines for 4 years in WWII.

We wish you rest and will miss you!



One way we thank our corp of volunteers is our holiday party... Thank you USO PSA Volunteers!



Sea-Tac USO News ~ Sylvia Key, Center Manager



Gold Honor Award:

On Friday January 29th, USO Puget Sound Area (USOPSA) volunteer Dean Quigley arrived for his normal Friday afternoon shift at the SeaTac USO Center with more than just serving ham and cheese sandwiches on his mind.

Dean had received the “Gold Honor Award” in recognition for his outstanding service in York Rite Masonry by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, which is composed of members of the Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery or Preceptory. Accompanying this award was a monetary gift and Dean, having designated USO Puget Sound Area as his charity of choice, presented a check for \$262 to USOPSA Executive Director Donald Leingang and SeaTac Center Manager Sylvia Key. Dean has been a great volunteer at the USOPSA since September 2003 and hopes that more groups might read this article and come up with creative ways to assist the USO.

In 2009, USOPSA shattered all assistance records by providing morale and other services to over 439,000 military and family members. Those groups or individuals interested in assisting USOPSA can contact the USO Puget Sound Area at 206-246-1908. Those interested in finding out more about USOPSA can visit their website at www.usopsa.org or visit us on facebook at USO Puget Sound Area.

Wounded Warriors:

On August 14, 2009, the SeaTac Center was honored

to entertain 40 Wounded Warriors from Ft. Bliss, Texas. Capt. Paul Rodgers had arranged this trip to Alaska on the Holland Cruise Ship. Every one of the Warriors was either a Purple Heart Recipient, Wounded in Action or Injured While Deployed. They returned back to the SeaTac USO on August 21. I’m sure they had a great time and enjoyed the Cruise.



Comments from SeaTac USO visitors:

“After 2 days of traveling with my daughter, I longed for a shower. We came all the way from Japan Space A to visit family on leave. I thought of the USO commercial (on TV). With the USO I found warm smiles, food, a shower and a comfy place to sleep. I will give to the USO every year the CFC comes around” ... J

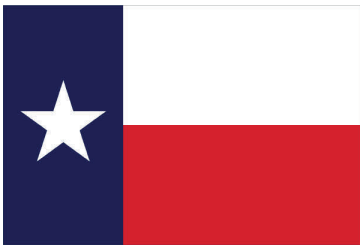
“Absolutely wonderful! My 8 month old son, Tristan, and I had a 15 hour layover. Thank you for everything you have done to make a very long layover actually enjoyable! J We got sleep, food, a shower, company. THANKS AGAIN & God Bless.” Rachel & Tristan Schweiger, Kodiak, Alaska USCG

“Thank you so much for your hospitality, friendly smiles and helpfulness. You were her when I needed you and we’re lucky to have people and organizations like you.” Lt. Karsaon

“Just wanted to thank your team for a great heaven of rest from many hours of traveling. Your team welcomed me warmly and provided me a “home away from home” if only for a few hours layover from the east coast to Hawaii. The information, conversation with your staff, the lounge, and refreshments were greatly appreciated. Your volunteers are super people and great patriots. You are always one on my CFC contribution form”. Col. Robert H. Harter



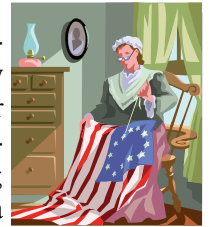
Flags



Did you know that the Texas state flag is the only state flag that is allowed to fly even with the United States flag? Do you know why? (See the end of this article for the answer)!

Did you know that the flag of the United States has changed 27 times including the original thirteen star/stripe flag reportedly sewn by Betsy Ross? Each of these 27 different American flags that have flown over this country since the Continental Congress passed the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation”. Each flag has a history and significance all their own.



The “Stars and Stripes” has long been a popular name for the national flag of our United States, representing our country, its people, our government, and our national ideals.

There are many rules and regulations, innuendos and courtesies that govern our use of almost every flag we may see. The United Nations uses alphabetical order in its presentation of national flags so that no one country has precedence over another. State flags are displayed according to the date that each state was admitted to the union. This is why the flags that are “flying” at the USO at SeaTac Airport must be displayed in a specific order: National, State, Military (in order of creation date - Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard), other (in our case, the POW/MIA flag). The regulation that directs this order of precedence is Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 1005.8 dated 31 October 1977.

The order of military flags is determined by service birthdays:

- ◆ Army - 14 June 1775
- ◆ Marine Corps - 10 November 1775
- ◆ Navy - 13 October 1775 - Abolished Feb 1781 - Reinstated 7 Sep 1781
- ◆ Air Force - 18 September 1947
- ◆ Coast Guard - 4 August 1790 (During peacetime, the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security. During wartime, if the Coast Guard comes under the control of the Department of Defense, then the Coast Guard flag would come before the Air Force flag in order of precedence.)

To answer the questions first asked in this article, the Texas State flag is the only state flag allowed to fly even with the United States flag because Texas was the only state that was an independent republic prior to becoming a part of the union.

Thirteen red and white stripes waving freely in the wind, proudly guarding that field of blue with its fifty familiar white stars. Those bright stars and bold stripes have stood for more than two hundred years as symbols of the deeply held beliefs that have made and kept our country strong and free.

Our flag has endured through many years of hardship and toil. It is known and respected throughout the world. It has come to be the beacon of democracy, freedom, liberty, and justice. Perhaps the modern American has come to take for granted the proud Stars and Stripes. Perhaps the notion that our flag means nothing more than apple pie and the Fourth of July has been allowed to live too long. Let us not forget that this flag was born of blood and been preserved by blood. This flag is the symbol of liberty, and the cost of liberty is dear indeed.

Judy Leu., 1SG, U.S. Army (Retired)

About the USO Puget Sound Area:

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Tara-Lyn Poole
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Contact us:
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info@usopsa.org

About the USO Puget Sound Area:

Nationally recognized, the USO Puget Sound Area has served more than 3 million of America's men and women in uniform and their families for over 40 years. The mission of USO Puget Sound Area is to provide a "home away from home," family support, and recreation opportunities to the members and families of our Armed Forces. We connect individuals, civic groups and businesses with the region's military community.

About the USO:

The USO (United Service Organizations) provides morale, welfare and recreational services to U.S. military personnel and their families. The USO is a nonprofit, charitable organization, relying on the generosity of the American people to support its programs and services. The USO is supported by Worldwide Strategic Partners AT&T Inc., BAE Systems, Blackwater Worldwide, Booz Allen Hamilton, Clear Channel Communications, The Coca-Cola Company, Gallery Furniture, S & K Sales Co. and TriWest Healthcare Alliance. Other corporate donors, including the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-11381), have joined thousands of individual donors to support the USO.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.uso.org.

USO PSA is on Facebook

Search for "USO Puget Sound Area" and become a fan! Find out what's happening, check out our photo albums, stay updated on events and even answer some trivia questions. Spread the word and start some chatter about USO PSA by suggesting our page to your friends. We want EVERYONE to know what the USO PSA is all about!

Thank you for supporting USO Puget Sound Area



PUGET SOUND AREA

USO Red, White & Blue Golf Tournament

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

11:00am—9:00pm

The Golf Club at Newcastle

\$250 Entry Fee per Golfer Includes golf and cart, driving range, putting contest, tee gifts and prizes and Awards Dinner.

phone:206.246.1908

fax:206.246.1914

email:sam@usopsa.org

Cockpit of the Executive Director; Don Leingang



Are you kidding me? It is already 2010 or 20 – 10 as we have been directed to pronounce it. 2009 went by in the blink of an eye and leaves many wondering where the entire year went.

Although I usually do not dwell on the past, there were numerous events in 2009 that I am very proud to have been associated with. Many of these events were captured in our earlier newsletters, but since that August edition, USOPSA has supported our Military and their Family members in numerous ways. McChord staff and volunteers concluded a busy year and sent over 30,000 military members to overseas duty stations in 2009. Quite a staggering number – especially when you think of those numbers in context of cookies, sandwiches and hugs goodbye and then consider that many of those deployments occurred in what I would call “nonstandard working hours”! Let’s just say that McChord’s volunteers met all those late night or early morning deployments and stand ready to be tested again in 2010. A big thanks to Tracye and her volunteers for making that happen. Further north, SeaTac has been just as busy, not only with weekly overseas flights to Japan but with high traffic numbers in and out of our SeaTac Center as well. Sylvia and her volunteers need to be commended. In fact, USOPSA as an organization can be proud to say we shattered any previous numbers for those we helped by assisting almost 440,000 (actually 439, 972) military and family members in 2009. WOW!

As September arrived, so did our first ever event with the Tacoma Rainiers Baseball Club. The Sept 3rd game was a salute to the USO Puget Sound Area. Sylvia set the tone for the event and represented USOPSA on the pitcher’s mound during pre-game festivities. She delivered a “Strike” - which I am told might still be visible on U-Tube! September also saw us celebrate our Volunteer Lunch at the Coast Guard Station in Seattle. Our volunteers were able to tour the Coast Guard vessels, enjoy a great lunch and be entertained by both CAPT Klapproth, Commanding Officer, Integrated Support Command Seattle and CAPT Englebert, Captain of the Port of Seattle. We also announced that Sarge Carter (SeaTac) and Jane Hughes (McChord) were our “Volunteers of the Year”. Both these fine individuals are a direct reflection of the other 250+ volunteers we currently have on our team.

October 2009 also saw the USOPSA complete our most successful 5 Star Red, White and Blue Gala and Auction ever. For those able to attend, I am sure you will agree that the Museum of Flight was a spectacular venue. Under the leadership of Board Members and Gala Co-Chairs Fawn Spady and Nancy Strom, Procurement Chair Kathryn Reaugh, Finance Manager Samantha Hauser, Dessert Chair Deborah Keane, Decoration Co-Chairs Margaret Chavez Talbot and Margaret Anker, and Board Member Carol Beaudu, when the dust settled that night, it was determined that USOPSA received enough in donations to take care of our many programs and have enough funds remaining to begin a remodel at McChord. In fact, just this week, we finished the first step of our remodel by replacing the refrigeration unit in the McChord walk-in cooler. A “big thanks” to our friends at Northrup Grumman for supplying that needed boost to make that installation a reality. When all is said and done, McChord’s Center will be an improved and more efficient center for the Military that we support.

November and December were busy months for us with deployments and food drives from McChord, Toys for Tots and the Snowball Express at SeaTac. This year, McChord was able to supply over 300 families with holiday meals. Additionally, 20 of our volunteers assisted with Toys for Tots as we teamed with the Marines and over 60 Puget Sound Area Tully’s stores to collect and distribute toys. As I write, January 2010 is almost complete, and everyone associated with our organization needs to put on their seatbelt because this year has the potential to break all records for military and family members assisted. I am counting on our dedicated Site Managers, Sylvia Key at SeaTac, and Tracye Kakely at McChord, our tireless Finance Manager, Samantha Hauser, our enthusiastic Board of Directors and over 250 volunteers to overcome any challenge that lie in our path. There is a lot which needs to be done and together, we will keep the lights on...until they all come home!

Cheers... Don

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USO Standards of Excellence



"This is why I am glad that my USO Puget Sound Area Volunteers treat every client who walks through our doors like the treasure they are" ~ Donald Leingang

On January 14, 2005, our son, Joshua Rogers was preparing to go to his first assignment at Fort Lewis, Washington. Before we put him on the plane at Bush International, we told him that when he got to Washington to go to the USO when he arrived at the airport. We knew that you would take care of him and see that he got to where he needed to be.

Just as we thought, he walked in to the USO and you took care of him. You got him a ride to Fort Lewis with a retired officer. We have never forgotten what you did for him.

After serving a 15 month tour with the 3-2 Striker Brigade and most recently with the 101st Airborne as an Army Ranger, SSG Josh Rogers was taken from us by a drunk driver on February 16th, nine days before his 24th birthday.

To honor his memory and to hopefully help other young soldiers, please accept this contribution in memory of my son.

Until They All Come Home,

Nancy Rogers

Nancy Rogers

Proud Mother of

SSG Josh Rogers