

MEDIA ADVISORY

May 1, 2008

Military Spousal Support Is Vital to Military Retention Outstanding Military Spouse to Be Honored Nationally for Her Support

WHAT: At the first-ever Military Spouse of the Year Award (MSOY) ceremony, *Military Spouse* magazine will nationally honor the 2008 MSOY recipient Mrs. Chelle Brewer. According to U.S. Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, family support is an important issue for troops—specifically spousal support. Support from spouses helps with military retention. In addition, funding for family support programs has doubled from \$700 million in 2008 to \$1.4 billion in 2009.

WHO:

- Babette Maxwell, Co-Founder and Executive Editor, *Military Spouse* Magazine
- Mrs. Lynne Pace, Wife of General Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Mrs. Sheila L. Casey, Wife of General George Casey, Jr., U.S. Army Chief of Staff
- Mrs. Barbara Levin, Wife of Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)
- Mrs. Billie Gingrey, Wife of Representative Phil Gingrey (R-GA)
- Ms. Tiia Karlen, Wife of Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA)
- Mrs. Sharla Tester, Wife of Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)

WHEN: Tuesday, May 6, 2008 – 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Rotunda
The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW 20004
Washington, DC 20004

WHY: Brewer is being honored for her selfless efforts. As wife of an injured soldier, Second Lieutenant Steven Brewer, and mother of a child special with needs, Brewer has triumphed over adversity, while continuing to find time to volunteer for the USO, Soldier's List, American Red Cross, American Heart Association and March of Dimes.

Brewer was chosen from among hundreds of reader nominees because of her inspirational representation of all military spouses. The 2008 MSOY award represents the positive and inspirational qualities of a military spouse, who is truly an “alpha woman.” The MSOY award and ceremony are sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance. *Military Spouse* magazine is the leading national magazine for the nation's 1.1 million current and 20 million former military spouses. For more information, please visit www.milspouse.com.

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