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“Military Spouse of the Year 2008” Announced

Wife of injured soldier and mother of special needs child, Chelle Brewer’s story of triumph over adversity is representative of military spouse alpha moms worldwide.

Pittsburgh (January 23, 2008) – 27-year old Chelle Brewer’s soldier husband is nearing the end of a half year long rehab thousands of miles from home for injuries sustained in a military training accident. Her three-year old daughter was born with half a heart. She volunteers for the USO, Soldier’s List, American Red Cross, American Heart Association and March of Dimes while raising her daughter and five-year old son. To honor her selfless efforts, Chelle Brewer has been named the *Military Spouse* magazine “2008 Military Spouse of the Year,” sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

This “alpha mom” is a former military brat herself who also holds a master’s degree. And while her story may seem like a Hollywood screenplay, her record of public service and selfless support of the Homefront is not uncommon among military spouses, especially in this time of war.

“Americans do an exemplary job honoring military troops and veterans, and it’s a well-deserved thank you for those men and women who sacrifice so much for the prosperity of this nation. But often forgotten in this patriotic wave of appreciation are the 1.1 million spouses of those troops, who are left to manage the Homefront during incredibly stressful times,” said David Exterovich, sales manager of *Military Spouse* magazine.

“I hear civilians complain about their spouse having to work late or take a 3 day business trip, and I wonder what they would do if they were forced to send their spouse away for 12 months at a time, into harm’s way, with no guarantee that they’ll come back the same person, if at all,” said Babette Maxwell, co-founder and executive editor of *Military Spouse* magazine and Milspouse.com. “Military life can throw family life into a tailspin. The fact that Chelle Brewer has smiled and prospered through countless obstacles is simply amazing.”

“We at TriWest have a motto, ‘Whatever It Takes,’ and it fits Chelle perfectly,” said TriWest president and CEO David J. McIntyre, Jr. “She is an inspiration to military spouses and to all Americans, and she is the epitome of the dedication, selflessness and sacrifice that is the bond of our military and our military families.”

Surprisingly, Brewer says she was shocked at her selection but vowed to use her title to effect positive change. “Military spouses permit our troops to concentrate on securing the country. It’s a vitally important role that I and my 1 million sisters embrace. I humbly accept this honor and look forward to using it to raise awareness for the efforts of military spouses,” she said.

Chelle will make public appearances, pen a monthly column in *Military Spouse* magazine and maintain a blog during her reign, which will last throughout 2008. A celebratory event in her honor is planned for Military Spouse Day, to be held in Washington, DC on May 9.

Chelle Brewer’s full story and photos can be found at www.milspouse.com/msoy2008. *Military Spouse* magazine (www.milspouse.com), published by veteran-owned Victory Media, is the leading national magazine for the nation’s 1.1 million current and 20 million former military spouses. The company also publishes *G.I. Jobs* (www.gijobs.net) and *Vetpreneur* (www.navoba.com).