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2010 Military Spouse of the Year Unveiled*Alaskan Air Force Wife Honored During
VIP-laden Awards Ceremony in Washington*

WASHINGTON—Mrs. Lori Bell was awarded the 2010 Military Spouse of the Year award today in recognition of her commitment to the military community, including her active duty Air Force husband Kenyon and their two young children, Amira and Kenyon II—and her ongoing volunteer work and community contributions. Mrs. Bell, 34, of Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, was chosen from hundreds of nominees from around the world. She has been a military wife for 8 years, following nearly ten years of her own active duty service in the Air Force. She has founded online social support networks for military spouses and mothers as well as being a praise leader at her church.

Patty Shinseki, wife of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, presented the award to Mrs. Bell with Babette Maxwell, co-founder and executive editor of *Military Spouse* magazine, at a luncheon presented by *Military Spouse* magazine and sponsored by Armed Forces Insurance.

"Lori's dedication to the military is clear both in her prior active duty service and the continued commitment demonstrated in her work on behalf of spouses and families," said Maxwell. "She is a wonderful role model and we could not be more honored at her selection."

"Lori exemplifies the meaning of selfless service to others. As a mother, military spouse and Air Force veteran, she is dedicated to her family, to other military spouses, to her community and to serving our country," said Lori Simmons, Director, Marketing & Public Relations, Armed Forces Insurance. "At AFI, we're proud to honor her as the 2010 Military Spouse of the Year."

Of the nominees, one winner was chosen from each branch. Nicki Bunting of Darnestown, Md. represents the Army. Erin Whitehead of New Bern, N.C. is the Marine Corps Spouse of the Year. Ramona Hatfield of Baltimore, Md. represents the Coast Guard. Loree Tillman of Houston, Texas is the Navy's honoree. All five women exemplify the values cherished by the military spouse community: service, sacrifice, love of family and patriotism. All five women and their families were honored at the Washington ceremony and will represent their respective branches throughout the year.

In addition to many members of the House and Senate, the award ceremony drew multiple VIPs to honor the military spouses: Sheila Casey, spouse of General George Casey, Chief of Staff of the Army; Karen Preston, spouse of Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston; Annette Conway, spouse of General James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps; Elizabeth Kent, spouse of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent; Darleen Greenert, spouse of Admiral Jonathan

Greenert, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Bobbi West, spouse of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West; Suzie Schwartz, spouse of General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Paula Roy, spouse of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy; Pam Allen, Spouse of Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant of Coast Guard; Debbie Leavitt, spouse of Master Chief Michael Leavitt, Command Master Chief for Coast Guard and Deputy Commandant for Operations.

About *Military Spouse*:

Military Spouse magazine 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.com), the *Guide to Military Friendly Schools* (www.militaryfriendlyschools.com) and *Vetpreneur* (www.navoba.com). The 2010 MSOY award and ceremony are sponsored by Armed Forces Insurance. For more information, please visit www.milspouse.com/msoy.

About Armed Forces Insurance (AFI):

AFI was founded in 1887 by military leaders with a single mission: to protect the property of those who protect our nation. The company provides premium quality, competitively-priced property and casualty insurance to military professionals throughout the United States and overseas. Headquartered in Leavenworth, Kansas, AFI understands that its subscribers have unique circumstances and insurance needs, enabling the company to offer a level of personalized service that's unequalled in the industry. AFI is the proud sponsor of *Military Spouse* magazine's 2010 Military Spouse of the Year Award, which recognizes the patriotism, professionalism and altruism of military spouses. For more information, visit the Web site at www.afi.org or call 1-800-495-8234.

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