



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Step Up America
Heroes Appreciation Festival**

Vero Beach, Florida – The American Security Council Foundation (ASCF) Dr. Henry A. Fischer (President/CEO), Brig. Gen. Donald B. Smith (Chairman of the Board) our Board Members and Senior Advisory Board wish to thank everyone connected with the 2014 Step Up America Heroes Appreciation Festival that took place December 6th, 2014 in Holman Stadium at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida.

We especially thank our sponsors George E. Warren Corp., Bedrock Aviation LLC, Vero Beach Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Chelsea's on Cardinal, Melody Music, Taddeo Family Foundation, Anthony Donadio, Quality Health Care and Wellness of Florida, Anthony Donini CPA, Historic Dodgertown, Springhill Suites, 94.7 Hot Country, Indian River Firefighters Association, Walmart # 1068, Home Depot # 8545, CVS # 5522, Nino's Pizza & Natalie's Best Florida Juices.

We also wish to thank the City of Vero Beach, the Indian River County Commissioners and County Administrators Offices, Indian River County Sheriff's Office, Vero Beach Police Department, Indian River County Recreation Department, Vero Beach Airport Authority our volunteers and supporters for making this an excellent evening.

We were proud to have as our onsite heroes Medal of Honor Awardee SFC Melvin Morris 5th Special Forces Group Viet Nam, CSM Ed Britt 5th Special Forces Group Viet Nam, MCPO Rick Kaiser Executive Director National UDT/SEAL Museum, MCPO Ken Corona Asst. Director National UDT/SEAL Museum, Pinnacle Five; 9th MCPON Jim Herdt, 8th MCPOCG Vince Patton, 13th CMSAF Jim Finch, 14th SMMC Al McMichael. Also in attendance but not on stage was local hero Staff Sgt. Justin Burdette from Palm Bay, Florida.

With numerous Christmas Parades and other activities that took place on the same day, the event was well attended by approximately 3000 attendees.

The event featured **The Band Perry, JT Hodges, Newton & Thomas and Kurt Stevens**. The opening ceremonies took place at 4:30 with the National Anthem Girl "Janine Stange" performing the National Anthem as the Centennial High School ROTC Color Guard presented the colors.

The first of what we hope to be an annual event in Vero Beach raised money for the UDT/SEAL Trident House and the ASCF Scholarship fund benefiting the children of Active Duty Military, Veterans, First Responders and Law Enforcement.

The ASCF sends our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous and dedicated support for our programs, including the Step Up America Program as well as your support of the strategy of "Peace through Strength" which has kept America free and strong. We pledge to you our continued best efforts to ensure that the United States of America will always have the best equipped, trained, and best lead military in the world making America the beacon of freedom hope and justice throughout the entire world.

In closing, on behalf of our Board of Directors, Senior Advisory Board and Staff, we wish you a joyous holiday season, Happy Hanukkah, and a blessed Christmas. May God truly bless you and your family in the new year!