

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 

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## President Obama to Celebrate Our Nation's Real Heroes with Fourth Annual "Salute to the Military" USO Concert Featuring Brad Paisley

**Twitter Pitch:** President Obama & the First Lady are #joiningforces with @the\_USO: military families invited to @WhiteHouse for food, fun, @BradPaisley show

WHAT: "Salute to the Military" USO Concert on South Lawn

WHEN: Wednesday, July 4, 2012

8:10 p.m. EST USO Concert

Note. Concert will be streamed LIVE on www.whitehouse.gov

WHERE: White House South Lawn

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20500

WHY:

As Americans across the world prepare to celebrate their independence, the USO and President Obama are gearing up to honor and thank those whose sacrifice, service and dedication make our freedoms a reality - the men and women of our armed forces and their families. This Fourth of July, the White House will host the fourth annual "Salute to the Military" USO concert. The star spangled event will include a barbecue, family-friendly games, a musical selection by "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, and a 60-minute USO show featuring Grammy Award-winning country music artist Brad Paisley and a capitol view of the Nation's fireworks.

In celebration of <u>Joining Forces</u>, an ongoing initiative led by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden calling for all Americans to show their support to military families, the White House "Salute to the Military" USO concert featuring Brad Paisley is expected to be attended by more than 1,200 troops and military families, and will be streamed LIVE on www.whitehouse.gov.

The White House celebrated their first "Salute to the Military" USO concert in 2009 and have continued their tradition for the past four years. Among the notable names and groups to participate in this Independence Day ritual are Jimmy Fallon, Foo Fighters, Michelle Branch, Cedric "The Entertainer," The Killers, Brandi Carlile, Train, Amos Lee and "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band.

A three-time Grammy Award-winner, Paisley has placed more than 20 singles at the top of the charts and been awarded 14 Country Music Association Awards including the 2010 "Entertainer of the Year."

The USO is proud to support *Joining Forces* and urges Americans to send <u>Messages of Thanks</u> to military families, share their <u>Stories of Support</u> that detail how they have supported military families and participate in volunteer opportunities in their neighborhood that will help strengthen the military community.

## **QUOTES:** Attributed to Sloan Gibson:

"Every day of the year, the USO finds ways to support and thank our troops and their families for their service. As we head into our fourth annual "Salute to the Military" celebration at the White House, it's important to reflect on those sacrifices made by our troops and their families and to tell them how much they are appreciated. Take a moment this July 4<sup>th</sup> to say "thank you" to our service men and women and their families."

## Attributed to Brad Paisley:

"The Fourth of July has always been about family, freedom and celebration. I am so honored to be spending my holiday performing a USO concert for our troops and their families, and to be celebrating those freedoms with the men and women who put everything on the line to defend them."

For more information about the USO, visit uso.org.

## About the USO

The USO (United Service Organizations) lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families millions of times each year at hundreds of places worldwide. We provide a touch of home through centers at airports and military bases in the U.S. and abroad, top quality entertainment and innovative programs and services. We also provide critical support to those who need us most, including forward-deployed troops, military families, wounded warriors and their families and the families of the fallen.

The USO is a private, nonprofit organization, not a government agency. All of our programs and services are made possible by the American people, support of our corporate partners and the dedication of our volunteers and staff. In addition to individual donors and corporate sponsors, the USO is supported by President's Circle Partners: American Airlines, AT&T, Clear Channel, The Coca-Cola Company, Kangaroo Express, Kroger, Lowe's, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Procter & Gamble, and TriWest Healthcare Alliance and Worldwide Strategic Partners: BAE Systems, The Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin, and Microsoft Corporation. We are also supported through the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC-11381). To join us in this patriotic mission, and to learn more about the USO, please visit uso.org.

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