



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 5, 2013

Media Contact:

Oname Thompson
Office (703) 908-6471
othompson@uso.org

President Obama, the USO and fun. *Honor, Salute and Celebrate Troops at Fifth Annual "Salute to the Military" Concert Event at the White House*

*More Than 1,200 Troops and Military Families Spend Their Holiday on the South Lawn
Alongside the Indie Pop Sensation and The First Family*

Twitter Pitch: President Obama, @FLOTUS and @the_USO celebrate #JulyFourth w/ troops, military families and @OurNameIsfun!

ARLINGTON, VA (July 5, 2013) – Joining forces for the fifth consecutive year were President Barack Obama, The First Family and the USO, who once again honored, saluted and celebrated troops and their families this Independence Day with the **Fifth Annual "Salute to the Military" USO Concert Event** on the South Lawn of the White House. Complete with barbecue and family-friendly games, the event included a musical selection by "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band and a 60-minute USO performance by **Grammy Award winning and platinum-certified band fun.**

DETAILS:

- In celebration of troops and their families stationed around the globe, the Fifth Annual "Salute to the Military" USO Concert Event was streamed LIVE via www.whitehouse.gov/Live and attended by more than 1,200 troops and military families.
- To date, the "Salute to the Military" USO Concert Event has lifted the spirits of more than 6,200 troops and military families in just five years.
- The White House kicked off its first "Salute to the Military" USO Concert in 2009 with Jimmy Fallon, Michelle Branch and the Foo Fighters. Last year's event included a USO performance by Brad Paisley.
- Among other notable names and groups to volunteer their time and talent to this moral boosting Independence Day ritual are Cedric "The Entertainer," The Killers, Brandi Carlile, Train and Amos Lee.
- In April 2011, President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden announced [Joining Forces](#), an ongoing initiative calling for all Americans to show their support to military families.

- The USO is proud to support *Joining Forces* and urges Americans to send [Messages of Thanks](#) to military families, share their [Stories of Support](#) that detail how they have supported military families and participate in volunteer opportunities that help strengthen their military community.
- In January, fun. was invited by President Obama to perform at 2013 Presidential Inaugural Ball in Washington, DC. The energetic performance included hits “Some Nights,” “We Are Young,” and “Carry On.”
- Two-time Grammy Award winning and platinum-certified band fun. released their landmark album, *Some Nights*, last year. After breaking radio and sales records for songs like “We Are Young” and the title track “Some Nights,” the album was named one of the top albums of 2012 by *Rolling Stone*, *SPIN*, *NPR*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. The band is scheduled to embark on their biggest North American headline tour yet starting July 6 in Toronto and running through October, when the tour ends in Mexico City.

QUOTES:

Attributed to Sloan Gibson:

“Our troops and their families make daily sacrifices for us around the globe and they deserve our ongoing thanks. The USO joined forces with the First Family for the fifth straight year to honor America’s Armed Forces and their families today, delivering a special thanks that they’ll never forget. The Grammy winning rock band fun. did more than entertain, they sent a message that the USO and the American public will always be by their side.”

Attributed to fun. frontman Nate Ruess:

“We’re so honored that the First Family and the USO invited us to be a part of this event. We couldn’t imagine a more memorable or fitting way to spend the 4th of July than at The White House performing for military families.”

Visit USO.org/honor-salute-celebrate this Fourth of July to learn ways you can help the USO honor, salute and celebrate the accomplishments and valor of our deployed troops, military families, wounded, ill and injured troops and their caregivers and families of the fallen.

MULTI-MEDIA:

USO Photos: <http://bit.ly/112mOme>

USO Fact Sheet: <http://bit.ly/Y3YoUi>

###

About the USO

The USO 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 families of the fallen. The USO is a private, non-profit organization, not a government agency. 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, Grand Canyon University, jcpenny, Jeep, 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, Microsoft Corporation and TKS Telepost Kabel-Service Kaiserslautern GmbH & Co. KG. 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.