



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2013 USO Gala to Once Again *Honor Those Who Serve* With Annual Awards Presentation to Military Heroes, Volunteers and Corporate Leaders

New York Times Best Selling Author Heather Graham Added to Celebrity Guest List

Alongside Actor/USO Gala Emcee Dennis Haysbert, Among Others

WHAT: **2013 USO Gala: *Honoring Those Who Serve***

WHEN: Friday, October 25, 2013
4:30 p.m. Media in place for interviews
5:00 p.m. USO Service Member of the Year interviews
6:00 p.m. Red Carpet/VIP Reception
7:30 p.m. Dinner & Evening Program

WHERE: Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

WHO: *Spirit of the USO Award*

- **David J. McIntyre, Jr.**
Master of Ceremonies
- **Dennis Haysbert**, American film, stage and television actor/USO tour veteran

Sloan Gibson, President, USO
USO Service Members of the Year Awards

- **Soldier of the Year: Sergeant Craig D. Warfle**, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment (Fort Lewis, WA)
- **Marine of the Year: Sergeant Andrew C. Seif**, 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- **Sailor of the Year: Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew C. Munden**, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit THREE, Naval Amphibious Base Coronado (San Diego, CA)
- **Airman of the Year: Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Broyles**, 140th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight (Buckley Air Force Base, CO)
- **Coast Guardsman of the Year: Petty Officer 3rd Class Samuel A. Peikert**, Tactical Law Enforcement Team South (Opa Locka, FL)
- **National Guardsman of the Year: Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Petersen**, 103rd Rescue Squadron, New York Air National Guard, Francis S. Gabreski Airport (Westhampton Beach, NY)

USO Volunteer of the Year Award

- **Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Johnson**, USO Camp Hansen and USO Camp Schwab (Okinawa, Japan)

Special Guests

- **Harlan Coben**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *SIX YEARS*, *STAY CLOSE*, *LIVE WIRE*, *CAUGHT*, *LONG LOST*, and *HOLD TIGHT*. Coben has over 50 million books in print worldwide.
- **Phillip Margolin**, author of seventeen *New York Times* bestselling legal thrillers, including *SLEIGHT OF HAND*, and former criminal defense attorney for over a quarter of a century.
- **F. Paul Wilson**, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Repairman Jack novels, including *DARK CITY*, and winner of the Bram Stoker Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- **Kathleen Antrim**, award-winning author of *CAPITAL OFFENSE*, journalist, columnist and radio personality.
- **Heather Graham**, *New York Times* bestselling author of more than a hundred novels including her most recent novel, *THE NIGHT IS FOREVER*.

WHY:

Continuing a time-honored tradition of recognizing the bravery, loyalty and heroism of an enlisted service hero from each branch of the military, the USO will present this year's *USO Service Member of the Year Awards* at the star-studded 2013 USO Gala in Washington, DC on Friday, October 25, 2013. The USO will also present its *USO Volunteer of the Year Award* and *Spirit of the USO Award*.

On September 18, 2013, the heroes and their significant others were recognized by 20th Century Fox for their service and sacrifice, and invited to attend the star-studded "Runner, Runner" premiere at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas as special guests. While onsite the group walked the Red Carpet and were treated to photos with Justin Timberlake, who extended his heartfelt congratulations and gratitude.

For more than 72 years, the USO has been lifting the spirits of America's troops and their families. An estimated 1,100 guests will gather to pay special tribute to our men and women in uniform. Guests include Washington dignitaries, celebrities, Members of Congress, military leadership, members of the USO Board of Governors and USO Corporate sponsors.

The USO is a private, nonprofit organization that lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families millions of times each year at hundreds of places worldwide. It provides a touch of home through USO centers at airports and military bases in the U.S. and abroad, top quality entertainment and innovative services. The USO also provides 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. USO programs and services are made possible by the American people, support of our corporate partners and dedication of our volunteers and staff.

Chair:

David J. McIntyre, Jr., TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Co-Chairs:

Rima Al-Sabah, Lilibet Hagel, Barbara Levin, Patricia McKeon, Deanie Dempsey, Mary Jo Myers, Margaret Gibson

Sponsors:

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The Coca-Cola Company

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Lockheed Martin Corporation

United Healthcare Military & Veterans

Tickets:

\$1,000 per ticket. For more information or to obtain table sponsorship information, visit uso.org/gala or contact gala@uso.org.

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