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Palm Beach Brunch for Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Raises More Than \$22,000

PALM BEACH, FL (November 22, 2016) – The 2^{nd} Annual "A Hero's Toast" Champagne Brunch at The Colony hotel November 16^{th} raised more than \$22,000 for the nonprofit Forgotten Soldiers Outreach ("FSO"), which since 2003 has sent over 400,000 "We Care" packages to U.S. troops deployed overseas.

All money raised will pay shipping costs for these monthly "We Care" packages, each of which is filled to its brim with toiletries, snacks and recreational items. Troop members may sign up to receive their "We Care" packages at www.forgottensoldiers.org. Family members also may register loved ones.

The red, white and blue-themed brunch gave supporters the chance to salute the troops and hear firsthand how important FSO's "We Care" packages" are to men and women stationed overseas. This event was emceed by WPTV News Anchor and FSO National Chairman of the Board of Directors, Jay Cashmere.

Guest speaker CWO3 Karen Wheelhouse, who has been serving over 31 years and currently on active duty with the Florida Army National Guard,. She was deployed during Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, at which time was a recipient of monthly "We Care" packages from Forgotten Soldiers Outreach.

We are so fortunate to have Honorary Chairs, (1SG ret) Matt & Tori Eversmann. Matt Eversmann, is the soldier who inspired the book and movie, Black Hawk Down, and his wife Tori Eversmann, author of THE IMMORTALS.

Molly Emerson, 13 year old daughter of Matt & Tori, and student at Palm Beach Day Academy led the audience in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Special thank you to our amazing sponsors, Bank of America, Brown, Harris, Stevens of Palm Beach, Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, PA, Surplus Giant, Two Men and A Truck, Taylor-Made Air Conditioning, Floridian Community Bank, Lynn E. Surovek, Michael & Margaret Hoffberger Mildred Merritt and Flower Jungle.

"What an amazing event, with such charitable supporters! It brought me to tears to not only hear the wonderful heroes speak, but to see the outpour of support for our troops! It certainly made me proud to be an American! The funds raised will certainly help assure that our troops are not forgotten!" comments Lynelle Chauncey Zelnar.

Lisa Archer was chairwoman. For more information, please visit <u>www.forgottensoldiers.org</u> or call (561) 369-2933.