



ThanksUSA Says Thanks With Gala Event

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Military families often defer their lifestyles and dreams because of multiple, long-term military deployments of their loved ones and the stresses they cause.

ThanksUSA, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that provides college, technical and vocational school scholarships to help military spouses and children achieve their educational goals, will host its second annual Treasure Our Troops gala to honor military families today.

“ThanksUSA is a young program and has the potential to really improve the lives of so many service members and their families,” said 2006 scholarship recipient Oriana Futrell, whose husband, U.S. Army 1st Lt. Dan Futrell, returned home in September after 15 months in Iraq. “With this gala, I hope to see the program grow and reach as many lives as possible. I am so appreciative of the help ThanksUSA has given me and my husband, and I know this program can do the same for other families.”

Because of the increased financial strain she faced during her husband’s deployment, Futrell thought she would have to stop pursuing her college degree. Her scholarship helped defray her tuition costs, and she ultimately graduated with a degree in political science.

With more than 1,200 spouses and children of U.S. military personnel who have received educational scholarship thus far, scholarship recipients from 2006 and 2007 will be on hand at the event to discuss how these grants have improved their lives during difficult times.

Today’s event will raise private funding for the scholarship program in the coming year. Those interested in learning more about ThanksUSA can visit ThanksUSA.org.