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ThanksUSA Announces Awards Totaling \$3.5 million to 1,000 Scholarship Winners

Scholarships awarded in all 50 states; ThanksUSA Treasure Hunt and opportunity to win fabulous prizes to end on September 5

WASHINGTON, D.C. – ThanksUSA, a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) organization, announced today that 1,000 winners will begin receiving a total of \$3.5 million in scholarship money toward post-secondary education. The scholarship recipients are all spouses and dependent children of active duty U.S. military personnel. Winners hail from all 50 states.

An acronym for **T**reasure **H**unt **A**iding **N**eeds of **K**ids (and Spouses) of those **S**erving the **U**nited **S**tates of **A**merica, ThanksUSA was founded by two Virginia elementary public school children, Rachel and Kelsi Okun, ages 10 and 8. The scholarships are funded by federal, corporate and individual contributions and from the first-ever nationwide treasure hunt staged to support military troops. In this treasure hunt, participants of all ages are navigating their way through 12 challenging puzzles, each based on a U.S. state, with clues rooted in American history, culture and geography. Information on the treasure hunt and scholarship criteria can be found at www.ThanksUSA.org. The game ends on Sept. 5, 2006.

“We are thrilled to award these scholarships to the spouses and dependents of those in uniform,” ThanksUSA President Jeri Thomson said. “Giving \$3.5 millions in education aid to over 1,000 awardees, and to be able to reach each and every state, demonstrates just what an impact ThanksUSA has had on U.S. military families across the country.”

Treasure Hunt Ends September 5, 2006, New Players Still Welcome to Join

The treasure hunt -- and the chance to win prizes -- will come to a close on September 5, 2006. But there is still time to log-on and join the fun. Nearly 6,000 players have already signed up to

participate. Among the treasure hunt prizes up for grabs are: a trip to the pyramids in Egypt, a customized Harley Davidson motorcycle, and trips to several U.S. cities including New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles to see the Academy Awards. Players who successfully solve all 12 stages of the hunt will be eligible for the grand prize – the Adeler Jewelry \$100,000 chest of jewels, gems and rare coins.

Along with the official sponsors, ThanksUSA appreciates the strong support of those in the military who helped make the scholarships possible, including the spouses of the Joint Chiefs, Mrs. Lynne Pace, co-chairman of Treasure our Troops, a fall tribute to the troops, and the ThanksUSA board members: Robert Okun, Deanna Okun, Carolyn Ferek, Timothy Gillis, Frank Fahrenkopf Jr., William Hansen, Lt. Gen Normand Lezy, Brig. Gen Maria C. Owens, the Honorable Rod Paige and the Honorable Jeri Thomson.

About ThanksUSA

ThanksUSA, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a unique national effort to thank the men and women of our armed forces and their families. Founded in the fall of 2005, ThanksUSA is dedicated to providing educational opportunities through competitive scholarships to the children and spouses of active duty military personnel. An acronym for **T**reasure **H**unt **A**iding **N**eeds of **K**ids (and Spouses) of those **S**erving the **U**nited **S**tates of **A**merica, see www.ThanksUSA.org for more information.

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