



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES PROFESSIONAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION, INC.
World Headquarters, 3535 Briarpark Drive, Suite One, Houston, TX 77042
713-97-USPTA (978-7782) • fax: 713-978-7780
toll free: 800-USPTA-4U (877-8248)
e-mail: uspta@uspta.org • www.uspta.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 5, 2011

USPTA and ThanksUSA Join Forces to Thank the Troops

As part of “Tennis Thanks the Troops,” the United States Professional Tennis Association and ThanksUSA have teamed up to encourage USPTA professionals to fund scholarships for the families of military men and women.

How will USPTA members be able to help? By donating a portion of their lessons or clinic fees taught during Memorial Day Weekend 2012 (or any other weekend/date). USPTA Professionals can provide the opportunity for their students and club members to donate \$5 for the cause; or they can run a simple round robin or other event with all or a portion of the proceeds being donated to ThanksUSA.

For more information visit uspta.com or ThanksUSA.org.

“We encourage our teaching pros to give to important causes through tennis and Lessons for Life and I can’t think of a better way to show the troops how much we appreciate their sacrifice than providing them with the gift of education for their families,” said USPTA CEO Tim Heckler.

Through Lessons for Life, which became USPTA’s national charitable program in 1999, the USPTA encourages its members to use tennis as a vehicle to help others through fundraising activities in their communities. For 2012, the collaboration with ThanksUSA is a new component of the program, and one that strives to mobilize USPTA members to raise funds to help families of military personnel, specifically by providing scholarships.

In the past year alone, ThanksUSA received 1,800 applications from the spouses and children of our armed forces. While ThanksUSA was able to provide 300 scholarships valued at \$3,000 each, the organization could only meet a small portion of the need among deserving applicants. In 2012, ThanksUSA seeks to award at least 500 scholarships totaling \$1.5 million.

ThanksUSA’s scholarship program is unique in that both spouses and children of active-duty men and women can apply to the same organization for support. The scholarships are need-based – enabling those who most need and deserve the opportunity to transform their lives through higher education the opportunity to do so. Since ThanksUSA’s

inception in 2006, it has awarded 2,500 scholarships for a total value of almost \$7.5 million.

“The generous support of USPTA’s tennis pros and their students will allow ThanksUSA to award even more scholarships,” said Michele Stork, executive director of ThanksUSA. “We applaud their contribution to a program that has benefited thousands of military families.”

Scholarship recipients represent all military branches – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve – and come from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

About the USPTA: Founded in 1927, USPTA strives to raise the standards of the tennis profession while promoting greater awareness of the sport. USPTA offers more 70 professional benefits to its more than 15,000 members worldwide, including certification and professional development. With more than 300 days of educational opportunities throughout the year, USPTA offers the most comprehensive continuing education program in the tennis industry. For more information, call 800-877-8248 or visit www.uspta.com.

About ThanksUSA: ThanksUSA is a non-partisan, charitable effort to mobilize Americans of all ages to “thank” the men and women of the United States armed forces. We’re doing that by providing college, technical and vocational school scholarships for their children and spouses. For more information, visit www.thanksusa.org.

###

CONTACT:

Poornima Rimm, Dir. of Public Relations
USPTA
713-978-7782, ext. 125
poornima.rimm@uspta.org
Shawna Riley, Dir. of Communications
shawna.riley@uspta.org

Michele Stork, Executive Director
ThanksUSA
703-855-4108
MicheleStork@ThanksUSA.org