



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 15, 2016

**CONTACT:
Michele Stork
(703) 855-4108**

MicheleStork@ThanksUSA.org

ThanksUSA Honors Wounded Troops by Serving Up Tennis Lessons

Renowned Wheelchair Athlete & Tennis Professional Brenda Gilmore to Lead Lessons in “Adaptive Clinic”

ThanksUSA, the top provider of scholarships to military spouses and children, will salute military families with a specially designed tennis clinic for wounded service members on June 17th.

The adaptive clinic will provide experienced and first-time players with tennis lessons that will help them adjust to the challenges of their disabilities while enjoying all the sport has to offer. Leading the charge on the court will be Brenda Gilmore, an internationally renowned tennis professional who inspires others from her wheelchair. A special reception will follow and all funds raised will benefit the ThanksUSA military family scholarship program.

WHAT: ThanksUSA adaptive clinic for wounded service members and reception

WHO: **Wounded service members and their families**

Instructors: Brenda Gilmore, 2015 Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) Maryland Member of the Year; Executive Director Prince George’s County Tennis and Education; former nationally ranked wheelchair tennis player; PTR Adaptive Tennis Certified

Elliott Datlow, 2014 United States Tennis Association (USTA) Mid-Atlantic Tennis Professional of the Year

Keynote: Dawn Halfaker, former Military Police officer in the U.S. Army who was wounded during a 2004 combat patrol; Purple Heart and Bronze star recipient; CEO of Halfaker & Associates, a professional services and technology solutions firm

Partner: ThanksUSA has also teamed up with the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) in a year-round Tennis Thanks the Troops campaign. The effort encourages USPTA members and enthusiasts nationwide to support military families through fundraising events and/or donations.
(<http://www.thanksusa.org/tennis-thanks-the-troops.html>)

WHEN: Friday, June 17, 2016
12:00-2:00 pm – Adaptive Clinic
2:00-3:00 pm – Reception/Keynote

WHERE: Montgomery TennisPlex
2014 USTA National Facility of the Year
18010 Central Park Circle, Boyds, MD

WHY: To strengthen military families through the sport of tennis. Proceeds will benefit the children and spouses of U.S. troops through the ThanksUSA scholarship fund. Since its inception in 2005, the national non-profit organization has distributed more than 4,000 need-based, post-secondary school scholarships valued at more than \$11 million to families in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit www.ThanksUSA.org.

For more information, contact Michele Stork at (703) 855-4108 or MicheleStork@ThanksUSA.org.