

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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72-Hour Tennis Marathon to Attempt Guinness World Record for Military Families

ThanksUSA and Jack Schore Tennis to host Family Festival at conclusion of marathon

Sixty-one-year-old [Bonnie Vona](#), a competitive tennis manager and U.S. Tennis Association official, will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for Most Consecutive Opponents in Tennis Singles. Vona, the mother of an Army officer, will compete in the 72-hour tennis marathon in support of ThanksUSA, a national non-profit that provides scholarships to military spouses and children. [72-Hour Salute: Tennis Thanks the Troops](#) will take place Friday, July 1, through the morning of July 4 to officially kick off the Family Festival, which will include Maryland's Largest Tennis Clinic, among other activities.

The tennis marathon and additional July 4 activities are part of a year-round [Tennis Thanks the Troops](#) campaign, a partnership between ThanksUSA and the U.S. Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). The effort encourages USPTA members and enthusiasts nationwide to support military families through fundraising events and/or donations.

WHAT: Through a 72-hour tennis marathon, Bonnie Vona, a competitive tennis manager and U.S. Tennis Association official, will attempt to break the current Guinness World Record of 36 consecutive opponents in tennis singles. In preparation for the challenge, Vona has undergone in-depth physical assessments including bone density, aerobic and cardiovascular conditioning and other endurance measurements, assisted by [Life University's Sport Science Institute's Dr. Mark Kovacs](#), a leading performance physiologist and sport scientist.

At the conclusion of the marathon, ThanksUSA and Jack Schore Tennis will host a July 4 Family Festival. Everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to participate in Maryland's Largest Tennis Clinic; additional activities will include a Junior Firecracker Open L8 Tennis Tournament, serving machine contest, military appreciation, raffles and giveaways, Germantown Glory Fireworks, and "Racquets & Rockets!" Adult Tennis and Fireworks Party.

WHEN: 72-Hour Tennis Marathon
July 1-4, 2016
Matches start at 8:00 AM

July 4 Family Festival
July 4, 2016
9:00 AM-2:00 PM – Junior Firecracker Open L8 Tournament
2:00 PM – Awards Ceremony
3:00-5:00 PM – Maryland's Largest Tennis Clinic
6:30-11:00 PM – "Racquets & Rockets!" Adult Tennis and Fireworks Party

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. The financial burden for military families seeking higher education is heavy, and while the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill provides significant support, a large gap remains especially for hundreds of thousands of active duty service members who have several children and only one source of income. More than 560,000 service members claim 1.1 million children as dependents. Across the country there are 700,000 spouses and more than 100,000 children between the ages of 17-22 making college affordability a profound challenge.

Since its inception in 2005, ThanksUSA has distributed nearly 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.

To request an interview or for more information, contact Michele Stork at (703) 855-4108 or MicheleStork@ThanksUSA.org.