

Beyond the Court

Trip of a Lifetime to the US Open

The vibrant atmosphere of the US Open was highlighted by the suite we enjoyed on the mezzanine level of Arthur Ashe Stadium,” Chuck Poteet recalls, “with great food and unbelievable seats to view the matches.”

He’s referring to the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity he and his wife Freda enjoyed at the US Open after winning the grand prize in the Tennis Thanks the Troops contest.

Tennis Thanks the Troops is a campaign organized by ThanksUSA, which since 2006 has provided more than \$11 million in educational scholarships to the children and spouses of our servicemen and women. Awardees 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.

Tennis Thanks the Troops campaign offers a reward to the club or pro that raises the most money: two tickets to the US Open along with airfare and lodging.

For the third year in a row, the grand prize trip was awarded to Berkeley Hills Country Club in Duluth, Ga. Tennis Director Todd Asini began his 2015 push by hosting a Memorial Day tennis mixer and

Chuck and Freda Poteet at the US Open, courtesy of Tennis Thanks the Troops.



concluded by hosting a Wimbledon viewing party and silent auction. “It is the least we can do for all those who sacrifice every day for our freedom,” he said.

The Poteets’ son from Berkeley Hills Country Club decided to turn the trip over to his mother, an avid tennis player for years. Freda, who plays in USTA, ALTA and league tennis in the Atlanta area, was able to turn a dream into reality during this astonishing trip. She was thrilled

when Martina Hingis, her favorite player, and partner Sania Mirza continued their run by winning the US Open women’s doubles title without losing a set.

Chuck and Freda Poteet know the stresses military service can mean for families. Chuck’s father was in the military. He came of age on the heels of the Vietnam War and went into law enforcement in 1979, where he continues to be active today.

“This was a trip of a lifetime that she and I will always remember,” Poteet said. “I think your [Tennis Thanks the Troops] campaign does great things for the families of our service men and women, and I appreciate any organization that recognizes the sacrifices made by so few to protect so many.”



Tennis Thanks the Troops provides “a trip of a lifetime that she and I will always remember.”

“... the highlight would have to be the suite we enjoyed on the mezzanine level of Arthur Ashe Stadium...”

ThanksUSA in partnership with the USPTA continues to support scholarships for military families. To join our team, visit www.ThanksUSA.org.