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From: HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS®

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New York-area Iwo Jima Survivors Celebrate 65 Years *Celebration dinner raises more than \$30,000 for Hope For The Warriors®*

NEW YORK, NY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – Twenty-six survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima gathered last Saturday night at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place, NY, to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the celebrated World War II event. The Iwo Jima Survivor's Association teamed up with Hope For The Warriors® to host the dinner as a benefit, attracting more than 425 attendees and raising more than \$30,000 for programs that assist wounded service members, their families and families of the fallen from our current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Billed as a night to bring together generations of service, the speakers included Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient Col. H.C. Barney Barnum, USMC (Ret), and Cpl. Zach Briseno, USMC (Ret), an amputee from the current conflict in Iraq. “You came home to the country you protected and defended and you continued to contribute for the next 65 years,” said Briseno in his tribute to the Iwo Jima survivors. “You are the rock stars of Marine Corps history. You inspire us not just with battlefield bravery but with the lives you’ve created since. From the latest generation to the greatest generation, I say thank you.”

“It was an incredible honor to bring together these generations of service members,” said Tina Atherall, Executive Vice President of Hope For The Warriors®. “Not only were we able to honor and commemorate their selfless service, but we could witness firsthand the brotherhood that exists among warriors as they support and encourage each other. Sixty five years later, these WWII heroes continue to give back to their communities and the next generation of service members.”

“Partnering with Hope For The Warriors® was one of the best things I’ve done,” said Angelo Ciotta, President of the New York Iwo Jima Survivors Association. “The evening went above and beyond my greatest expectations. I got phone calls from attendees expressing their appreciation for being included.”

The evening began with cocktails at 7:00 pm followed by dinner and a reception featuring a video presentation by General Charles Krulak, USMC (Ret), which had been filmed on location in Iwo Jima. The Golden Tones provided entertainment from the Big Band Era.

To learn more about Hope For The Warriors® and the programs we support, please visit our website at www.hopeforthewarriors.org.

Hope For The Warriors® is a civilian organization, with 501(c)(3) non-profit status, is not a government agency and is solely supported by the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations in support and appreciation of those who have sacrificed in the name of freedom. Federal Tax Id#20-5182295. Hope For The Warriors® is a recipient of the Combined Federal Campaign, CFC #27800.

