



Northwest

**Contact:** Kevin Iriarte, Communications Manager  
USO Northwest  
Cell: 707.816.1221  
Email: [communications@usonw.org](mailto:communications@usonw.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## ***USO Northwest Hosts the Largest Charity Golf Tournament in the Pacific Northwest, Raising \$263K in Support of Local Military***

**SEATTLE, WA (June 16, 2016)** – Patriotism was in full swing at USO Northwest’s ‘Red, White & Blue Golf Classic, Dinner, and Auction,’ held June 16th at The Golf Club at Newcastle. This year’s golf classic commemorated the USO Northwest’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of supporting our local military and their family members in the Pacific Northwest. The Red, White and Blue Golf Classic is the Northwest’s largest golf tournament, featured over 70 supporting sponsors and raised in excess of \$263K. “Nothing is bigger than the USO,” said auctioneer John Curley.

Prior to the tournament, the “Festivities on the Green” kicked off with a putting contest hosted by Kayson Golf. Other festivities included the Marines performing an 18 gun salute, the Todd Beamer High School Wind Ensemble playing patriotic music and the Todd Beamer JROTC Cadets performing the Presentation of Colors. Afterward, Joe Myhra, VP of Ballpark Operations for the Seattle Mariners, and 2016 Red, White and Blue Golf Classic Chairperson, welcomed all guests to the event. Ed Odom, USONW Board Chair, thanked all sponsors and Board Member Dean Proffitt of The Boeing Company presented a check for \$50,000 in support of the tournament.

“This year’s Golf Classic was a tremendous fundraising event and a great show of community support for military members and their families stationed here in the Pacific Northwest,” said Joe Myhra. “From the numerous sponsors to a 9 plane flyover by the Arlington Black Jack Squadron, this tournament showed the tremendous community support to our military members”.

After 18 holes of golf, Atomic Helicopter conducted a “first ever” 750 golf ball drop. Following the golf ball drop, golfers and dinner attendees participated in an auction, led by the talented and exciting John Curley. The evening concluded with the recognition of the day’s top teams. This year, the Air Force team won the coveted “Chairman’s Military Cup” with a

score of 57. The USO also recognized Patriot's Maintenance, who took first place honors overall with an impressive score of 54, edging out Expedia and Chateau Ste Michelle.

"Many of our local military families are already feeling the effects of continued deployments, so it's vital that local companies and patriots who can afford to do so, stand with us to ensure USO Northwest programs and services continue," said Donald Leingang, executive director of USO Northwest and retired Commander, U.S. Navy. "We appreciate the corporate and community sponsors who stepped forward to help support our military and their families in this time of need."

Each year the USO Northwest's Golf Classic welcomes more than 330 golfers, including local celebrities and military heroes from all branches of the armed forces on two courses.

For additional details, and to sponsor and register for next year's USO Northwest 'Red, White & Blue Golf Classic, Dinner, and Auction,' please visit the USONW website at [www.usonw.org/golf](http://www.usonw.org/golf) or call USO Northwest at (206) 246-1908 ext. 3.

###

### **About USO Northwest**

For 75 years, the USO has strengthened America's military service members by keeping them connected to family and loved ones throughout their service to the nation. USO Northwest (USONW) continues that mission today by serving more than 650,000 military and their families annually throughout Washington and Oregon. USO Northwest provides a home away from home by offering a safe, comfortable, and relaxing lounge as they prepare for or are coming home from deployment through three USO Centers located at Sea-Tac International Airport, Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Portland International Airport. In addition, USONW also serves our military and their families through two USO Mobile Canteens. The Mobile Canteens expand our service delivery by offering the military the same kind of support we provide at our stationary centers, but in the field during trainings, pierside for deployments and homecomings, and throughout military locations in the Pacific Northwest. Supporting America's military was the first mission of the USO, and over time, the USO has refined this mission, developing new programs and services to meet the ever-changing needs of our military and their families, all the while, holding steadfast to our original mission. USONW provides support to those who need it most, including morale-boosting and family-strengthening programs, deployment and redeployment support to help servicemen and women adjusting to the duty ahead, resiliency training for families facing multiple deployments, as well as discreet and compassionate escorts and other support for Families of the Fallen.

USO Northwest is not a government agency, but a private, nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations to support its activities. USO Northwest does not receive any government funding. For more information, or to make a tax-deductible contribution to USONW, visit us online at [www.usonw.org](http://www.usonw.org).