



150
Years of Service
1861-2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 13, 2011

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Armed Services YMCA Honors Individuals and Organizations for Supporting Military Families at 24th Annual Recognition Dinner

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) today presented a number of awards to outstanding individuals and programs that work to improve the quality of life for junior enlisted personnel and their families at their 24th Annual Recognition Dinner in Alexandria, Va. last night. In its 150th anniversary year, the ASYMCA is dedicated to providing programs to support the men and women of America's military, and their resilient families.

ASYMCA, with support from event sponsor General Dynamics, announced winners of the following awards:

- **ASYMCA Annual Art and Essay Contest** – 24 K-12 students from forward operating positions around the world and Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Virginia received savings bonds for original works on their military families and heroes;
- **Raytheon Program Achievement Awards** – ASYMCA branches from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, San Diego, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii were recognized for most innovative improvement, best use of volunteers and best new program for military personnel and their families, respectively; and
- **Raytheon Community YMCA Awards** – Regional YMCA branches from Newton, Mass., Basking Ridge, New Jersey, Des Moines, Iowa, and Estes Park, Colorado were honored for offering the best programs supporting the military.

"Every year I have the distinct honor to recognize the efforts of extraordinary people and programs that share the ASYMCA's commitment to our men and women in uniform and their resilient families," said ASYMCA National Executive Director Frank Gallo, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret). "This year's winners are among the best examples I've seen of resolve to support members of the military."

In addition to the annual awards, the ASYMCA honored Scott Celley, Vice President of External Affairs at TriWest Healthcare Alliance, with the National Spirit of Giving Award for outstanding character and contribution to his community.

"It is a great privilege to recognize Scott's contributions to this organization and the many others he dedicates himself to throughout the country. He has made and continues to make a positive, lasting impact on his community through his dedication to serving U.S. military families," said Gallo.

For more detail on award winning programs and content, including copies of all student art and essay winners, please visit <http://www.asymca.org/press/>.

ABOUT ASYMCA: Celebrating 150 Years of Service to America's Military

The YMCA's dedication to America's armed forces began in 1861 when a handful of members voluntarily provided relief services to Civil War soldiers. Today, the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) enriches the quality of life for our service members at more than 150 program centers

around the world by providing educational, recreational, social and religious support services to junior enlisted military personnel and their families.

The ASYMCA, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, recently earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator for the fourth consecutive year and is a top-rated charity according to the American Institute of Philanthropy. An affiliate of the YMCA of the USA, ASYMCA is headquartered in Alexandria, Va. For more information, visit www.asymca.org.

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