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From: Hope For The Warriors®

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Team Hope For The Warriors® to attend Bataan Memorial Death March Right-Hand Amputee and OEF Veteran to Lead Team in his 5th March

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NM, March 9, 2010 – Team Hope For The Warriors® (H4W) will participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March on March 21, 2010. Established in 1989, the Bataan March is a grueling 26.2 mile hike through the high desert of New Mexico. Participants will march through desert terrain, deep sands, and reach elevations of 5,300 feet.

The Team Leader is Sergeant First Class Andrew McCaffrey, a forearm amputee with over 19 years of service in the Army. Although this is the third time Team H4W is in the march, it is the fifth year that McCaffrey will participate. Team H4W is comprised of both military and civilians who will march to honor a special group of veterans from World War II. Soldiers and Marines were forced to march for days across the harsh Philippine jungle terrain and then endure the hardships of prisoners' war camp. Thousands died in these brutal conditions. More than 5,000 military and civilians now participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March each year to honor these heroes. To learn more about the march, go to www.bataanmarch.com.

“I’m not there for me that day. I’m there for the death march survivors and what they had to do. If it wasn’t for guys like them, there wouldn’t be guys like us now,” emphasizes Sgt. 1st Class McCaffrey. Through the years, McCaffrey has formed bonds with many of the survivors who attend the Memorial March each year and compares it to meeting celebrities.

It is very likely that those sentiments are returned. After losing his right hand and wrist to a grenade in Afghanistan in July 2003, McCaffrey worked hard to not just rehabilitate but to excel in his job. Exceeding all expectations, McCaffrey returned to combat three more times, the first time just 18 months after his injury. Personally, McCaffrey claims to be in the best physical shape of his life, working out three times per day. He competes in marathons, cycling races, and was just chosen to a team to climb Mount Everest.

McCaffrey feels a great deal of pride in marching in the Bataan Memorial Death March and in wearing the H4W team shirt. McCaffrey explains, “When I wear the shirt, people always ask about Hope For The Warriors® and I tell them what they are doing for our wounded. Once they hear about [Hope For The Warriors®], they want to learn more and get more involved.”

Hope For The Warriors® is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for U.S. Service Members and their families who have been adversely affected by injuries or death in the line of duty. To learn more about Hope For The Warriors®, go to www.hopeforthewarriors.org. Team H4W sponsors McCaffrey, paying for all travel and entry expenses for the march. It is one way that H4W provides support to wounded service members in order to bolster morale, enhance quality of life, and ensure that “no sacrifice will be forgotten or need unmet.”

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.

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