



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YMCA of Northwest North Carolina Offers Free Memberships
Through Partnership with U.S. Department of Defense**

WINSTON-SALEM, NC – May 25, 2009 – Through a partnership with the United States Department of Defense, the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina is offering free memberships to eligible military personnel and their immediate family members.

The program, called the YMCA Military Outreach Initiative, was created to allow family members of deployed military personnel access to child development, family strengthening and health and wellness opportunities available through the YMCA. Eligible military personnel and their family members include members of deployed National Guard and Reservists, Active Duty or Active Duty Independent Duty personnel and families if approved by their Military Service Headquarters or relocated spouses and family members of deployed Active Duty personnel.

In order to sign up for free memberships, eligible military personnel and their family members should contact Military OneSource at www.militaryonesource.com or 800-342-9647 to confirm eligibility and receive an eligibility form. Then they should visit their local YMCA branch with copies of their eligibility form, Military ID and deployment orders or Military Service Headquarters approval letter. The YMCA will then provide a free six-month membership. The membership can be renewed at the end of the six months provided the personnel and family are using the YMCA on a regular basis.

To find out more about the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina and its many branches and services, visit <http://www.ymcanwnc.org> or contact Amy McNeil, Director of Communications, at a.mcneil@ymcanwnc.org or 336-777-6252.

About YMCA of Northwest North Carolina

When the first YMCA was established in 1844 in London, England, its mission was to promote positive Christian values as well as healthy behaviors and activities. Today, the YMCA movement has spread to more than 130 countries around the world, supporting and influencing the lives of millions of men, women and children of all backgrounds. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina association, a United Way agency, has been serving Winston-Salem and the surrounding areas since 1888. We have created a tradition of enhancing the lives of people in our community through an ever-growing list of programs and opportunities. We're proud to serve the people of Northwest North Carolina by helping to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. Our association currently serves more than 51,000 YMCA members and more than 100,000 people with our memberships and programs. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina has adopted Healthy Community 2015 initiatives to prepare youth and teens to succeed, strengthen and support families, develop caring communities and adopt healthy living habits. The YMCA offers financial assistance for memberships and programs through the Open Doors Program. Learn more about the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina at <http://www.ymcanwnc.org>.

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Administrative Offices

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www.ymcawnc.org

Mission: Helping people reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind and body.

A United Way Agency

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

