



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIKE DITKA TEAMS UP WITH THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES™ TO SUPPORT AMERICA'S WOUNDED HEROES

Legendary player and coach opens his heart and restaurant to raise awareness and money for the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes During the Holiday Season

Chicago, IL- December 7, 2009 – Hall of Famer “Iron Mike” Ditka may be famous as the “tough-as-nails” tight end and Super Bowl winning coach of the Chicago Bears, but when it comes to our nation’s severely wounded troops he is a real softie. On Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 6:00pm, Coach Ditka is hosting a fundraiser at his restaurant, Mike Ditka’s, located at 100 East Chestnut Street.

“When a soldier is injured on a desert battlefield, he or she may face months, even years of recovery,” notes Ditka. “Often their recovery requires their spouse to quit their job. Expenses mount and their income plummets!

“In only a few short weeks, a veteran and his or her family often fall behind on their bills and mortgage. In some cases, they cannot afford to provide for their children,” recounts ‘Da Coach’. “That is why I am hosting a benefit dinner for these heroes on December 10th. I want to honor those who have made such a sacrifice.”

“The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes is honored and thankful to have Coach Ditka host this dinner for our severely wounded heroes of the War on Terror,” says Patrick Norberto, general manager of CSAH. “With the generous support of patriotic Americans, such as Mike Ditka, we will be able to provide desperately needed emergency financial assistance to the burgeoning numbers of troops who will be returning from Iraq and Afghanistan injured and disabled.”

Also on hand will be several wounded vets to meet attendees and share their stories.

“It is our duty as Americans to help these servicemen and women who have sacrificed so much for a cause greater than themselves,” asserts Ditka. “We must help them get back on their feet in their most difficult time of need.”

Space is limited for the dinner on December 10th, so all interest Chicagoans should call Bill Murphy at (703) 323-8181 today to ensure that they are not locked out of this special event.

“I look forward to seeing many of my Chicago neighbors on December 10th and introducing them to some of our nation’s bravest heroes.”

The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes encourages all men and women of uniform who were severely wounded while serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and who are in need of assistance to call 888-44-SALUTE (888-477-2588) or e-mail info@saluteheroes.org. To learn more about CSAH, visit www.saluteheroes.org.

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To learn more about Mike Ditka’s restaurants, go to <http://www.mikeditkaschicago.com/>.

About Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes

The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to helping severely wounded troops from the War on Terror. The mission of the organization is to provide the assistance wounded and disabled veterans need to get their lives back on track. Founded in 2004 as a non-partisan organization, CSAH partners with corporate sponsors, individual contributors and volunteers to help severely wounded heroes and their family’s transition from the battlefield to the home front.

The organization is the top nongovernmental association helping wounded troops from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and since its 2004 inception, has provided over \$22 million in emergency financial assistance to severely wounded troops and their families, in more than 11,000 cases.

CSAH’s annual all-expense-paid Road to Recovery Conference & Tribute provides seminars, career counseling, job fairs, evaluations, and inspirational success stories.

For more information on how the CSAH can help you or to learn how you can help, please visit the CSAH Web site at www.saluteheroes.org