



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2006

Wounded Warriors to Compete in 10th Annual Rochester River Challenge Outrigger Canoe Race

Wounded Warriors hosted by Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, a western New York chapter of Disabled Sports USA

ROCHESTER, NY – This afternoon, members of the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Balboa Naval Medical Center and the Brooke Army Medical Center were greeted at the Greater Rochester International Airport as they arrived to compete in the 10th Annual Rochester River Challenge Outrigger Canoe Race this weekend.

Seven members of the United States military services who were severely wounded in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be competing as a team against non-disabled outrigger canoe teams in the River Challenge. This event, the largest outrigger canoe sprint race competition on the East Coast, will be held Saturday, September 16, 2006, at the Genesee Waterways Center, 149 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY starting at 8:45 am. There will be a total of 44 teams competing in the River Challenge including several from Heritage Christian Services.

The service members are attending as part of the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, a partnership with Disabled Sports USA and Wounded Warrior Project. Rochester based Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, a chapter of Disabled Sports USA, is hosting the Wounded Warriors. **The blessing of the canoes occurs at 8:45 am tomorrow with the Wounded Warrior Team races starting at 11:15 am and 11:25 am. An "Honor our Heroes" ceremony will be held from 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm.** Non Commissioned Officers Association is also supporting the outrigger canoe program for the wounded warriors.

The Wounded Warriors will visit Niagara Falls State Park this evening and attend a dinner at Top of The Falls Restaurant sponsored by Delaware North Companies. On Saturday, September 16, the Wounded Warriors will be special guests at the VIP reception offered by the Rochester International Marine Tattoo at the Blue Cross Arena and be recognized for their service to our country during the patriotic musical spectacular.

Sponsors Include: Wounded Warrior Project, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Monroe County Sports Commission, The Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Bills Alumni, Buffalo Sabres, Buffalo Bisons/Rich Products Corporation, Maid of the Mist Corporation, Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts, Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, Inc, New York State Parks.

Contacts: Jan Whitaker
Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana
janwhitaker@frontiernet.net
585-278-8445

Julia Ray
Disabled Sports USA
events@dsusa.org
301-217-9840

About Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project

"The Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project is a partnership between Disabled Sports USA, the Wounded Warrior Project, and Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, providing year round sports programs for severely wounded service members from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflict and the Global War on Terrorism.

Thirty-seven years of experience has shown early intervention with active sports results in successful rehabilitation, leading to employment. The "Wounded Warriors" and their family members are provided these opportunities free of charge, including transportation, lodging, adaptive equipment and individualized instruction in over a dozen different winter and summer sports.

Programs such as Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana's 10th Annual Rochester Challenge take place at sites throughout the U.S., offering Wounded Warriors the opportunity to integrate as participants and mentors in their home communities.

For more information visit our website at www.dsusa.org."

About Wounded Warrior Project

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization dedicated to assisting those men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have been severely injured during the wars on terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan and other hot spots around the world. Beginning at the bedside of the severely wounded, WWP provides programs and services designed to ease the burdens of these heroes and their families, aid in the recovery process and smooth the transition back to civilian life. To find out more, please visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org, or call 1-877-TEAMWWP

About Disabled Sports USA

Founded in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans, Disabled Sports USA (DS/USA) provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain confidence and dignity through sports, recreation and educational programs. The organization is the nation's largest multi-sport, multi-disability organization, serving more than 60,000 people nationwide. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, DS/USA offers sport in over 80 chapters in 35 states. Visit www.dsusa.org or call 301-217-9840.

About Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, Inc.

Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, Inc., a chapter of Disabled Sports USA is an all volunteer, non profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2005 by Jan Whitaker, United States Canoe Association's Adaptive Paddling Chairperson, who brought the sport of outrigger canoeing to Rochester, New York in 1997. Our mission is "To provide the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to gain confidence and dignity through participation in paddle sports, recreation, and related educational programs." Cape Ability's President and founding members pioneered national and international exhibition outrigger canoe competition for paddlers with physical or intellectual disabilities and inspired the movement for inclusion of the sport of outrigger canoeing in Paralympic Games. CAO is proud to have been instrumental in establishing a permanent outrigger canoe program in Kent Island, Maryland for Wounded Warriors in Walter Reed Army Medical Center. For more information, visit our web site at: www.adaptivecanoeing.org