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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA MILITARY FAMILY TRIBUTE HIGHLIGHTED AT MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

APRIL 18, 2014--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April is the Month of the Military Child. On the morning of Tuesday, April 17, Minnesota's military-connected youth were honored for the first time at the State Capitol Rotunda in St. Paul, to celebrate the fourth annual "Purple Up!" day.

Teri E. Popp, a Wayzata resident and President of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute, as the keynote speaker at this event--which also featured Governor Mark Dayton, and Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, the adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard--thanked all of the children of military families for their contributions to our nation. According to Ms. Popp, military children "may not feel like (they) have done a lot, but, by sharing (their) family member and supporting them, (they) really have done a great deal for our country."

In Minnesota, 20,000 men and women serve in the military. Currently, about 275 Minnesota National Guard members are deployed. The 114th Transportation Company, based in Chisholm, sent home a special video message for the children from overseas letting them know that their smiles, letters and love are what keeps them strong.

Ms. Popp announced the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for the Minnesota Military Family Tribute which will be located at the State Capitol Mall in St. Paul, Minnesota and will forever stand as a personal thank you to each spouse, significant other, child, parent, grandparent, sibling and any other person a member or former member of our U.S. military defines as family who provides the true foundation of support to our military personnel. This Tribute to military families will be the first of its kind in our nation.

The groundbreaking will take place on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 starting at 11:00 a.m. with a formal program commencing at 12:00 p.m. (noon). Speakers will include: Governor Mark Dayton; Bill Popp, Chair of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute; Ted Lee, HGA and a Blue Star Family representative; Ken and Julie



Drevnick, Gold Star Family representatives; Congressman Erik Paulsen, Minnesota's Third Congressional District; Larry Shellito, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs; and other dignitaries.

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NOTE: The Minnesota Military Family Tribute (MFT) is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to build a Tribute on the State Capitol Mall in St. Paul, Minnesota that will forever stand as a thank you to every military and veteran family member—past, present and future. A military or veteran family member is defined as a spouse, significant other, child, parent, grandparent, sibling, or any other person a soldier defines as family.

www.militaryfamilytribute.org