



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Jeffrey Coombs Memorial Foundation hosts
Second Annual Holiday Gathering for Military Families
of deployed, injured and fallen troops**

November 11, 2008, Abington, MA – With last year’s Holiday Gathering for Military Families proving to be such an enormous success, the Jeffrey Coombs Memorial Foundation is hosting a second annual event for families of deployed, fallen and injured troops on Wednesday, December 17 at Gillette Stadium.

The Jeffrey Coombs Memorial Foundation is a non-profit organization created in memory of the Abington father of three who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks. The Foundation, with the New England Patriots, hosts the event as a goodwill gesture toward the families and Massachusetts servicemen and women who make sacrifices for their country every day. There is no cost to the families to attend.

The Families will enjoy a stadium buffet dinner and numerous activities for children, teens and adults, including free raffles and surprise guest appearances. Children will receive a gift and a gift bag from Santa.

Family members interested in attending should email their name; address; sex and ages of children; and name of service-person and place of deployment to jwcfund@comcast.net. Eligible immediate family members include spouse and children of injured, fallen and deployed troops in Iraq or Afghanistan over the holidays. If there is no spouse or children, parents and siblings under 21 are invited. Other family member may attend if space allows.

“The response to last year’s party was incredible,” said Christie Coombs, widow of Jeff Coombs. “With help from the committee of Cindy McGinty and Maura Yanosick, we were able to put together an event that surprised even the volunteers, and especially the families. We’re hoping to make this year’s party as wonderful and special as last year.”

The purpose of the party is to give the families something to look forward to while facing the holidays without that special family member. “This time of year is typically an emotionally difficult period anyway,” said Coombs. “To be worrying about a family member off at war and to be missing them makes it difficult to fully enjoy the holidays. We want to give families a small distraction from that in the company of people who know exactly what they’re feeling. By the smiles on the kids’ faces last year, and with the letters of thanks we received from the troops overseas, we know we accomplished that goal last

year, and we expect to do the same this year. Many of these servicemen and women signed on as a result of 9/11. This is a way we can say thank you, and give something back to them and their families.”

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The Jeffrey Coombs Memorial Foundation funds the event, with the space donated and food discounted by the New England Patriots. Donations to help alleviate the cost of gifts, food and activities can be sent to the Jeffrey Coombs Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 463, Abington, MA 02351. Any organization or school group that wishes to contribute to the gift drive or gift bags should call Christie at 781/982-1608 or email jwcfund@comcast.net.

The Jeffrey Coombs Memorial Foundation (www.jeffcombsfund.org) assists families who have been affected by illness, death or other difficult circumstances that challenge them emotionally and/or financially. It also provides scholarships to local students and mini-grants to the schools for enrichment programs, and supports area programs. Since November 2001, the Foundation has distributed more than \$250,000.

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Jeffrey Coombs Memorial Foundation P.O. Box 463 Abington, MA 02351 781/982-1608