



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT:

Denise Gula Weller

440-477-4704

[www.vetspouse.org](http://www.vetspouse.org)

## **Launch of Hearts of Patriots Supports Families of Veterans Suffering From PTSD and TBI**

### **Organization to kick off with performance of *Blood Stripe, A Spouse's Story***

Elyria, OH, February 11, 2017 – On Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, Hearts of Patriots, a new initiative to assist spouses and families of Veterans suffering with PTSD and TBI will officially launch with a free event at Lorain County Community College Stocker Arts Center Hoke Theatre. The event, sponsored by the LCCC Veterans Center will begin at 7:30pm with opening remarks by Sherrod Brown, followed by a performance of *Blood, A Spouses Story*. The performance of *Blood Stripe, A Spouse's Story* is based on the actual experiences of Iraq combat Veteran who served during the War on Terror and brings to light the challenges faced by spouses and families who live daily with the consequences of war. *Blood Stripe, A Spouse's Story* is dedicated to the 3rd Battalion 25th Marines who lost 49 souls in Iraq during the War on Terror.

The mission of “Hearts of Patriots” is aligned to bring public awareness of the condition and experiences of our Soldiers and their families and provide education, resources and support for the caregivers.

The organizations education programs include educating the public as well as the military family on the challenges the families face throughout the Veterans transition into civilian life. The organization will provide Important resources for spouses and families that are accessible through the website [www.vetspouse.org](http://www.vetspouse.org). Finally, Hearts of Patriots will offer Support in the form of caring for those who care for our “Heroes” by providing direct services that acknowledge their sacrifice, and help to meet their needs, which are often overlooked.

The best chance of survival for our returning Veterans who suffers the devastating effect of PTSD and TBI, is a supportive family that has the tools, the education, and the resources to help the “Patriot” while receiving the support they need to carry the burden war has created for them. Finally, it will be the caregiver who can provide the greatest hope of preventing that Veteran from becoming one of the devastating statistics, joining the 22 Veterans who commit suicide each day.

###

### ***About Hearts of Patriots***

*Hearts of Patriots is a new 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide Education, Resources and Support to spouses of Veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI (traumatic brain injury). The organization educational programs shed light on the devastating effects PTSD and TBI have on the family with the purpose of increasing education to the general public and awareness and opportunity for solutions to the Veterans family; Resources for available support networking and direct Support for the caregiver. Started by Denise Gula Weller to bring attention to the sacrifice military families continue to make throughout their lives. Hearts of Patriots is an all-volunteer organization. [www.vetspouse.org](http://www.vetspouse.org)*