

Okaloosa County News Release

3/8/2010

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Photo Cutline: Recently, nationally recognized and local area resident Roy Jones Jr. was traveling through the airport and made time to spend a few minutes with troops – he even went through security a second time in order to do so.

USO Coming to NWF Regional Airport *Leadership Okaloosa Raising Furniture Funds*

Leadership Okaloosa, Chambers of Commerce, the Northwest Florida Regional Airport and USO are teaming up to provide the Freedom Lounge at the Airport. Leadership Okaloosa's Class Project for 2010 is to raise funds to purchase furniture for the space provided at the Northwest Florida Regional Airport. "We have the largest concentration of military in Northwest Florida, and are very excited to provide a place for them to rest, enjoy a cup of coffee or visit with family coming and going from Okaloosa County," stated Commissioner Don Amunds, liaison for the Airports.

If residents would like to make a donation toward furnishing the USO Freedom Lounge, please mail it to: PO Box 1576, Crestview, FL, 32536. "This is another great endeavor for Okaloosa County, and we greatly appreciate the support of Leadership, Chambers, the USO and our residents, stated Airports Director Greg Donovan.

"The USO Freedom Lounge will be the third addition to Northwest Florida and we are looking forward to the grand opening, as soon as we can furnish the room and train volunteers," stated Director Heidi Blair, Northwest Florida region. The USO was commissioned in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to create a "home away from home" for our servicemen around the world. The USO operates centers in the United States and abroad to provide a place for rest and relaxation, entertainment and resources for men and women in the armed services, as well as their families.

###