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Pat Tillman Leadership Summit
Got Your 6 Education Pillar Launch Event Set for July 24

Tempe, Ariz. (July 18, 2012) – The Pat Tillman Foundation, Student Veterans of America (SVA) and Operation College Promise will formally launch the Education Pillar of the Got Your 6 campaign with hundreds of student veterans, participating colleges and universities, members of Congress and celebrity partners in the Jack Morton Auditorium at George Washington University, at 6 p.m. (EDT), Tuesday, July 24.

Pat Tillman Foundation President and Co-Founder Marie Tillman will host the event, which will include a reception sponsored by Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, and a short program outlining the details of the initiative. The event will serve as the formal kickoff to the Education Pillar of the Got Your 6 campaign that was launched in May. Collectively, the Pat Tillman Foundation, Student Veterans of America and Operation College Promise will collect pledges from 500 colleges and universities that commit to providing resources, programs and policies to support their student veteran population.

To date, more than 30 educational institutions have signed the Education Pillar’s pledge. The full list of participating colleges and universities will be revealed Tuesday evening during the event.

In addition to Marie Tillman, the program will include remarks from Patty Shinseki, a 38-year military spouse whose husband, Eric Shinseki, serves as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Other speakers will include Chris Marvin, managing director of Got Your 6; a student representative from SVA and a Tillman Military Scholar.

The launch event will come on the heels of two major events for both Student Veterans of America and the Pat Tillman Foundation.

SVA is hosting its annual Leadership Institute from July 19-22 at Google’s Headquarters in Mountain View, CA. Fifty chapter leaders from across the nation will gather for one of the most unique training programs for student veterans created to date. Purdue University’s Military Family Research Institute and SVA created a curriculum that teaches student veteran leaders how to “design, develop and deliver” a thriving student veteran organization. All 50 leaders will be empowered to create a business plan for their chapter that is focused on sustainability and changing the landscape of their institution to be more supportive of student veterans.
The third annual Pat Tillman Leadership Summit will take place July 22-24, 2012, at the University of Maryland in College Park. More than 100 Tillman Military Scholars, Foundation board members and staff and representatives of the Foundation’s 14 University Partners will take part in the three day annual summit. Attendees will participate in leadership development and job skills workshops and volunteer to help with service projects throughout the area. In addition, Tillman Military Scholars will meet with key U.S. Congressional members to share their personal experiences and to bring awareness to the leadership roles filled by veterans and military spouses in today’s society. The launch of the Got Your 6 Education Pillar will serve as the closing event of the summit.

(Editor’s Note: Media members are invited to attend Education Pillar launch event. Additionally, Marie Tillman, whose book – The Letter – was released last month, will be available for media interviews from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (EDT) just prior to the event. Contact Tony Alba at talba@pattillmanfoundation.org or 602.568.0472 to make arrangements to cover the event or to arrange an interview with Ms. Tillman.)

Finally, a release of all colleges and universities that have signed the pledge to support the Got Your 6 Education Pillar will be distributed the morning of Tuesday, July 24.

About the Pat Tillman Foundation
Family and friends established the Pat Tillman Foundation following Pat’s death in 2004 while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan. Created to honor Pat’s legacy and pay tribute to his commitment to leadership and service, the Pat Tillman Foundation is a national leader in providing educational support and resources to veterans, active servicemembers and their spouses. Inspired by Pat’s attributes of leadership, passion for education and spirit of service, the Foundation annually awards educational scholarships through the Tillman Military Scholars program. Since the Foundation’s inception, over $5 million in educational support has been invested in individuals committed to a life of service both in and out of uniform, including over $3.2 million awarded to 230 Tillman Military Scholars nationwide. For more information, visit www.pattillmanfoundation.org.

About SVA
Student Veterans of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit coalition of student veteran organizations on more than 550 college campuses globally. Each chapter, run by and for student veterans, provides a critical peer-support network that has been linked to improved academic success. The local chapter is essential to accomplishing SVA’s mission, which is to provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation.

About Operation College Promise
Operation College Promise (OCP) is a national policy, research and education program based in Trenton, New Jersey, which supports the transition and postsecondary advancement of our nation’s veterans. The program’s mission is to support student veterans “To, Through and Beyond” the attainment of their higher education objectives. Founded in 2008 as a web-based resource, the project was initiated by the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) to centralize transition information for servicemembers on a comprehensive website. Today, the program has reached more than 300 institutions in 25 states through its signature training – the Certificate for Veterans’ Service Providers (CVSP) program and is a national leader in research efforts on student
veterans’ progress toward degree and employment, as well as in the development of innovative degree plans for military students. For more information, visit: www.OperationCollegePromise.com.

About Got Your 6
Got Your 6 is a campaign designed to change the conversation in America such that veterans and military families are seen as civic assets and leaders who will reinvigorate our community. The campaign combines the reach and resources of the top American entertainment studios, networks, guilds and agencies with the expertise and commitment of more than two dozen non-profit organizations. Through an extensive media footprint and a set of substantial service commitments, Got Your 6 will ensure successful reintegration of veterans into civilian life. For more information, visit www.gotyour6.org. ServiceNation is the organizing body and fiduciary agent for Got Your 6. The campaign is managed by Propper Daley.

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