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## **MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

### **MILITARY FAMILIES MOURN 3,000<sup>TH</sup> TROOP DEATH, PARTICIPATE IN NATIONWIDE VIGILS AND CALL ON CONGRESS TO END THE IRAQ WAR**

#### ***Family Members of Fallen Soldiers and Families of Troops Currently Deployed in Iraq Available for Interview***

*December 29, 2006, Nationwide* – On the eve of the 3,000<sup>th</sup> troop death, the next horrific milestone in the Iraq war, Military Families Speak Out (MFSO), an organization of over 3,100 military families opposed to the war in Iraq, calls on the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to honor the fallen and prevent further deaths by taking action to end the Iraq war.

*“We will mourn the 3,000<sup>th</sup> troop death as we have mourned all the tragic and needless deaths that have come before, and cry with the families who, like mine, will now know the un-ending pain of losing a loved one to a war that should never have happened,”* said Gilda Carbonaro of Bethesda, Maryland, whose son and only child Sergeant Alessandro Carbonaro, died on May 10, 2006 from wounds he suffered from an IED explosion six weeks into his second deployment to Iraq. *“Through our tears, pain and grief we say ‘No More!’ It is past time to end a war that should never have started.”*

*“We weep with each passing day, as three or more U.S. troops and countless Iraqi children, women and men lose their lives in a war based on lies,”* said Anne Chay of Andover, Massachusetts, whose 19 year old son is currently serving with the Army in Baghdad. *“President Bush talks about sending more troops – we know that strategy will only mean more lives lost. It is now up to Congress to use their power of the purse and cut off the funds that allow this war to continue. There is enough money already appropriated to bring my son and all of our troops out quickly and safely, with the gear, equipment and supplies they will need for this redeployment.”*

Members of Military Families Speak Out (MFSO), and their chapter Gold Star Families Speak Out (GSFSO), will be participating in nationwide vigils to commemorate the 3,000<sup>th</sup> U.S. troop death. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> MFSO and GSFSO members will travel to Washington, D.C. to

call on the incoming 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to act swiftly and decisively to prevent further deaths and any more horrific milestones by de-funding and ending the war in Iraq.

**To speak with members of Military Families Speak Out including families whose loved ones died as a result of the war in Iraq, and families with loved ones currently serving in Iraq or soon to deploy or re-deploy, contact Ateqah Khaki, Riptide Communications, 509-301-5282 or Nancy Lessin, Military Families Speak Out, 617-320-5301**

**Military Families Speak Out (MFSO)** is a national organization of over 3,100 families who are opposed to the war in Iraq and have loved ones in the military. **Gold Star Families Speak Out (GSFSO)** is a chapter of Military Families Speak Out, made up of families whose loved ones died as a result of the war in Iraq.

*For more information about Military Families Speak Out, please visit: <http://www.mfso.org>  
For more information about Gold Star Families Speak Out visit <http://www.gsfsso.org>*