

# Local soldiers, veterans honored guests at UFC tribute in Columbus

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Duty, honor and sacrifice are words often used to describe members of our armed forces and veterans. Those same words describe another kind of warrior, those found in the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Global War on Terrorism soldiers and veterans from Columbus had a unique opportunity to meet their favorite mixed martial artists during the UFC's tribute to heroes as part of "UFC 68: The Uprising,"

held March 3 at Nationwide Arena in Columbus.

Some of America's local heroes had a chance to spend some quality time with the fighters, exchanging intimate stories about their own personal experiences and witnessing the Mixed Martial Arts competition.

"I was really impressed the fighters were as interested in our experiences as soldiers as we were their experiences as fighters, and moved by their sentiments of appreciation for the armed forces," said Ohio Army National Guard Chaplain Capt. James

Sizemore.

The outreach event to armed forces members and veterans was made possible through the efforts of Mark Smith of NASA headquarters and the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic - Columbus.

"This is an excellent example of everyone coming together to show our deepest appreciation for those who answered the call to duty in an extraordinary way," said Michelle Covert of the VAOPC-Columbus public affairs office.

See Tribute on page 15



(VA photo by Michelle Covert)

Ultimate Fighting Championship heavyweight champion Randy Couture (back row, third from left), meets with Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans (back row from left) Terry Dean, Florance Stewart, Maj. Gary Love and Anthony Buchannon, and (front row from left) Army National Guard Chaplain (Capt.) James Sizemore and Josh Bell. These veterans were invited to watch the UFC competition that took place March 3 in Columbus.

the Columbus Federal Voice March 21, 2007 15

## Tribute

Continued from page 12

"It made me very proud and warmed my heart to watch our Global War on Terrorism veterans during

both events with huge smiles on their faces and laughter in their eyes," added Covert, who is an

Army veteran.

The pinnacle of the event took place when Army veteran and UFC Hall of Fame

member Randy "The Natural" Couture defeated Tim "the Maine-lac" Sylvia for the UFC heavyweight championship in front of 19,000 energized fans.

After his stunning victory over Sylvia, who was favored to win the bout, the jubilant warrior celebrated his victory in the middle of the octagon with friends

and family, but he took a moment to publicly thank those men and women who are currently serving in our armed forces.

"I wore the uniform for six years and traveled down that road for a while. I take every opportunity to give back and let them know we care and support them," Couture said.

## DSCC recognizes civilian deployers



(DSCC photo by Chuck Moffett)

Five DSCC associates were recognized at the March 13 Supervisors Call for their recent civilian deployments overseas to serve military customers. From the left are DSCC Commander Navy Rear Adm. Charlie Lilli; Doug Priest, who received the DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award and Superior Civilian Service Award for his work as a multi-class and customer service representative in Kuwait; Diane Lanter, who received the DLA Superior Civilian Service Award for her work as a Class X expediter in Kuwait; Tim Shaw, who received the DLA Superior Civilian Service Award for his work as a CSR in Iraq; and Robin Rogers, who received the DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her work as a lead CSR in Iraq. Not present was Danny Tipton, who received the DLA Superior Civilian Service Award for his work as a CSR in Iraq.



(VA photo by Michelle Covert)

Ultimate Fighting Championship heavyweight champion Randy Couture (right) meets with Chaplain (Capt.) James Sizemore, an Ohio Army National Guard member and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, before a March 3 UFC competition in Columbus.