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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NY BASS Chapter Federation Takes a Soldier Fishing

April 30, Calcium NY... The NY BASS Chapter Federation (NYBCF) held their third annual Take a Soldier Fishing event on Oneida Lake in Brewerton NY. In the days just prior to the event, central NY was riddled with torrential rain and 35-50 mph winds. Due to the extreme conditions and the rapidly rising water levels, county local officials issued flood warnings through the night before the event and organizers were sure they'd have to pull the plug. However, the day before the event the weather pattern broke and the day kicked off with clear sunny skies and 6 mph winds.

Sixty four Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division and forty five boaters arrived at 6 am for the morning registration and free Dunkin Donuts and coffee. Following registration the NY Region 7 Department of Environmental Conservation office provided a short educational class discussing the fish species in Oneida Lake and they issued all attending Soldiers a free fishing license for the day.

Before the 8 am launch Soldiers and Boaters received a safety brief and participated in a drawing for Dobyns Rods, The Rod Glove, US Reels, Shakespeare Rod & Reel combos and assorted tackle packs from Mad-Ty Custom Baits, Bear Paw Baits, Mustad Hooks and Lucky Craft Lures.

The goal of this event is to get Soldiers out on the water to decompress, relax, and engage with the local community. NYBCF President Mike Cusano states, "Their commitment to duty and country is not lost on our membership and this truly is our way of saying thank you for what these Soldiers do for everyone on a daily basis."

Ralph Alexander, Alexander Law Offices, said "I had a great time with my guys and really enjoyed their company. More important, we civilians can become desensitized to what's going on overseas. Spending some time with the Soldiers brings to light and humanizes the gravity of their work."

NYBCF 2010 Angler of the Year Matt Martin had this to say, "It was a great day on the water, my Soldier told me this was EXACTLY what he needed. He is having a son this month and then he's deploying to Afghanistan for 12 months in June. At the end of the day when he looked at the little crank bait (that caught him a 4 plus largemouth and smallie and more pickerel than he could count), he said where do I get one of these? I cut it off and gave it to him on the spot. He said he was going to take it to Afghanistan with him to remember this day when things get tough. I've since got his address and I've "adopted" him and will be sending him fishing reports, magazines and letters during his deployment. I am also going to see about having my son's class "adopt" him as well and send him letters and pictures during his stay

overseas. It was great to give back to these guys and it was as special to me as I think it was to him.”

The Soldiers returned for the official 1 pm weigh-in to see who would win the big fish award in one of five categories, Drum, Carp, Crappie/Bluegill, Rock Bass/Perch and Bowfin/Catfish. Winning big fish of the day was Specialist Nathan Oropeza fishing with Eric Tessmer. Their boat team brought in a Carp that pushed the scales to 21.33 lbs. and Oropeza took home a Temple Fork Outfitter rod and US Reel valued at \$250.

The Drum category went to the boat team of Carl Stewart and Warrant Officer Chris Might with a weight of 6.13 lbs. Winning the Rock Bass/Perch category was a mighty perch weighing .68 lbs. captured by the boat team of Bill Kays, Specialist Ashley Knapp and Private First Class Jeff Hodges. The boat team of Fred Chiluffo, First Lieutenant Loren Wampler and Second Lieutenant Andrie Doohovskoy took the Bluegill / Crappie honors with a 1.09 lb. Crappie. The final prize went to the boat team of Jim Moore and Staff Sergeant Chris Deck with a white bass weighing 2.56 lbs.

Following the weigh-in, Soldiers enjoyed a BBQ lunch and the day closed with drawings for additional prizes of shirts, hats, fishing tackle, gift certificates to area attractions and restaurants, passes to the Syracuse Chiefs and many other donated items.

A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteer boaters and the shore crew of Lori Haney, Paul Hudson, Craig Terpening, Bill Mahayna, Joe Maloof, Jen Cardinale, Keith Cardinale, Greg Pavlic, Carol Fetterman, Dick Hyde, Karen Cusano, Linda Martin, Bill Lamanche and Mickey Fortunato.

Event Sponsors:

US Reel, Dobyns Rods, Temple Fork Outfitters, The Rod Glove, Lucky Craft Lures, NYS DEC Region 7, Luck O' the Irish Guide Service, Onondaga County Parks, Empire Bass & Beyond, Brinson Marina, Uncle Sam Boat Tours, Gander Mountain (Cicero), KTBA Bass Club, Bass Pro Shops, InvisaSwivel, Alexander Law Office, Westchester Rod & Reel, Otis Technologies, Caskinette Lofink Ford, Music Center of East Syracuse, Kolorcraft Autobody, Bear Paw Baits, Syracuse Chiefs, Associate of the United States Army (Northern NY Chapter), Kinney Drugs #32 & #64, Mad-Ty Custom Baits, Onondaga County Federated Sportsman's Club, Paul Hudson, Jim Husnay Sr., Jim Husnay, Jr., Johnny Castle, Barb Elliot, Hank Zimmerman, Roy Smallie, Charles White, Bill Lamanche, Burnie Haney, Bruce Segar, Trapper's Pizza, Brookshire Fishing Club, Oneida Lake Bassmasters, Sons of American Legion Post #1650, American Legion Post #1650, NYBCF Juniors, NY Knicks, NY Jets, Baldrige Steel, Boat Works, American Traditions Motorsports, and the Fort Drum Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation office.

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