

SALUTE TO

Freedom GALA

THE HISTORY

The United Services Organization of North Carolina (USO-NC) celebrates its 70th anniversary beginning in March of 2011. North Carolina is both the birthplace of the first base-centric USO and home of the longest running USO center in the world. In 1941, the USO was established to meet a Presidential request for civilian support of the military, and the first facility in the world built as a USO center opened in Fayetteville, N.C. that year. Other centers were soon to follow, including one in Jacksonville, N.C.

As U.S. forces drew down following World War II, the USO as an organization was dissolved and its facilities closed. However, the Jacksonville center remained open through the determined efforts of its volunteers. Seventy years later, this center is the longest continuously operating USO facility in the world.

Today, USO-NC continues to be the lead organization dedicated to supporting military servicemen and women in the state of North Carolina. Eleven percent of U.S. military active duty forces (approximately half a million) call North Carolina home. With seven major military installations, North Carolina has the fourth largest demographic of active and reserve duty components in the country, and this population continues to expand.

USO-NC serves an average of over 300,000 troops over the course of a year in five centers across the state. Two travel-based centers at Charlotte Douglas International Airport and Raleigh-Durham International Airport host an average of 8,750 visitors per month. In these centers, USO-NC's volunteer-driven Honors Support Team has performed over fifty plane-side dignified returns and aided nearly 700 family members of fallen service members over the course of a year. Two installation-based centers in Fayetteville/Fort Bragg and Jacksonville/Camp Lejeune serve an average of 50,000 troops and their families, providing assistance with Rack Packs, care packages, deployments and homecomings. A fifth USO-NC center is a mobile unit that travels statewide to support troops and their families in remote locations.

Over the last seventy years, USO-NC has maintained its relevance by evolving alongside America's armed forces programs to continue to fulfill its mission to serve and support troops and their families in the Carolinas. USO-NC is proud to celebrate 70 years of successful service to North Carolina's military men and women and looks forward to another 70 years of dedicated service to America's next "Greatest Generation."



We need them. They need us. We need you. It's that simple.

