



**For Immediate Release
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SunTrust National Marathon To Honor Our Military

Tour of Middle East and Commemorative Race Bibs will help salute our troops

Washington, D.C. – On the eve of the July 4th online registration launch for the 2010 race, the SunTrust National Marathon announces its participation in an important visit to the Middle East that will encourage our troops in their semi-annual Armed Forces Physical Fitness Test. **The Warrior Tours: America's Races Salutes the Troops** will conduct seven races over seven days at seven US military bases from July 6 to July 16.

Founded by SunTrust National Marathon announcer Robi Powers, The Warrior Tours has received the backing of over thirty of the top running events in the United States. The SunTrust National Marathon will contribute race shirts, medals and other race supplies to be distributed at the events. Among those joining Powers on this seven day encouragement tour for our troops will be racing legend and Runner's World Magazine's Chief Running Officer Bart Yasso. For more on The Warrior Tours visit www.thewarriortours.com

To further recognize those who serve in the armed forces, the SunTrust National Marathon has created a special code on the upcoming online registration form for military and their families. Any individual that falls in the category of Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Dependents, or DOD Civilian Workers can mark **MILITARY** in the respective box. In return they will receive a commemorative bib on race day saluting their services to our country.

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Online registration for the 5th annual SunTrust National Marathon and Half Marathon will begin at 12:01 am (EST), July 4, 2009. A one week registration sale will take place with a special price of only \$65 for the marathon and only \$55 for the half marathon. Runners can register at www.nationalmarathon.com. The sale ends at 11:59 pm (EST) on July 11th.

Fast Facts:

- 5th Annual SunTrust National Marathon and Half Marathon
- Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 7am
- District inclusive marathon and half marathon course
- Fastest flat, looped marathon course in the nation according to Running USA
- 3rd fastest median marathon time with over 1,000 runners (Behind Boston and Steamtown) according to Running USA
- 2009 Race Gender Breakdown
 - Overall 51% Men / 49% Women
 - Marathon 65% Men / 35% Women
 - Half 44% Men / 56% Women
- Mayor Adrian Fenty - Official 2009 marathon finisher and honorary race starter
- Estimated 12,000 runners expected in only the fifth year of the race
- Over \$250,000 dollars raised for charity in 2009
- Boston Marathon qualifier

For more information, or to register for the SunTrust National Marathon, go to: www.nationalmarathon.com

About Greater Washington Sports Alliance:

Established in 2003, The Greater Washington Sports Alliance (GWSA) is a regional non-profit sports commission created to foster economic development and civic pride through the power of sports. GWSA's mission encompasses the attraction of sporting events to the region, the promotion of the regional professional, collegiate and amateur franchises, the support of youth investment organizations and the branding of Washington, D.C. as a world class sports destination. The Greater Washington Sports Alliance Internet address is <http://www.gwsportsalliance.com>.

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