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SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN DOMA; EQUAL BENEFITS FOR ALL MILITARY FAMILIES ON THE HORIZON

(Washington, June 26, 2013) – Today the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The Military Partners and Families Coalition (MPFC) recognizes the historic significance of this ruling as it paves the path for the federal government to finally treat our LGBT military families as equals under the law.

The end of DOMA will now allow for over a thousand benefits that have been restricted to the former definition of “spouse” to eventually be accessible to all legally married couples. These include the many mission-critical benefits extended to all other military families, including health care and housing allowances. According to a statement released by Secretary of Defense Hagel, “The Department of Defense intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses -- regardless of sexual orientation -- as soon as possible. That is now the law and it is the right thing to do.”

“We are excited and encouraged about what this ruling means for our LGBT military families,” said MPFC president, Ariana Bostian-Kentes. “Our structure as a coalition is perfectly positioned to continue to make great advances for ALL of our military community. One by one, the discriminatory policies that have done so much damage to the families who serve our country are falling; we are now looking forward to doing more great work around changing the culture of the military and working with those who serve the military population to promote the inclusion of all families.”

“Our Association appreciates the Supreme Court Decision overturning the Defense of Marriage Act, which should allow all military families to access the services and benefits they need to support their service members” stated Joyce Raezer, Executive Director of the National Military Family Association, an MPFC coalition member.

In anticipation of this ruling, MPFC has established opportunities to answer the many questions about the ruling and what it means for the full extension of benefits that all military families earn. This Sunday, June 30 at 4:00PM ET, MPFC will be hosting a Virtual Family Meeting with the Legal and Policy Director

for OutServe-Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, David McKean, who will answer questions and explain the impact of the Supreme Court's ruling on LGBT military families.

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Military Partners and Families Coalition (MPFC): is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. MPFC was founded in 2011 by a group of spouses and partners of U.S. Armed Forces service members. MPFC provides support, resources, education and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military partners and their families. For more information, go to www.MilPFC.org