



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Famous Tenor and Virginia's Governor Will Honor America's Military Families at ThanksUSA's President's Day Benefit Concert**

**\*\*Event to take place on Feb. 21, 5-7 p.m. – details below.\*\***

**McLean, Va., February 15, 2011** – A soaring voice and caring hearts are coming together this Presidents' Day to pay tribute to America's military families with the gift of education.

ThanksUSA is pleased to announce that special guest, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, and internationally renowned tenor, Anthony Kearns, are joining together on February 21 to spotlight the organization's efforts. ThanksUSA provides post-secondary school scholarships to the children and spouses of members of the Armed Forces across all services, the National Guard and Reserves. ThanksUSA has distributed more than 2,500 scholarships in just over five years.

"This will be a wonderful evening of song and celebration," said ThanksUSA Executive Director Michele Stork. "Having two such high-profile guests together in one place emphasizes how important they feel it is to acknowledge the sacrifices being made by our military families. We're very pleased that Governor McDonnell has graciously agreed to lend his name and support for this cause."

Governor McDonnell is a strong supporter of the ThanksUSA mission. As the son of a World War II veteran, father of a daughter who served in the United States Army in Iraq, and himself a soldier for 21 years (both active duty Army and Reserve), the Governor knows well the challenges facing members of the Armed Forces and their families.

"I am thrilled to be participating in this special evening honoring our military men and women who sacrifice so much to keep America safe," said Governor McDonnell. "While they serve us, we must also serve them. It is our duty to help their families here at home and I can't think of a better way to help than through the gift of education. We are fortunate too that Anthony Kearns will lend his his time and talent to this worthy cause."

Anthony Kearns is the founding member of The Irish Tenors, Ireland's most famous musicians, alongside the rock group U2. He also enjoys a robust solo career. At the Presidents' Day, invitation-only event, Mr. Kearns will perform from his unique solo repertoire of Broadway favorites, classic opera and, of course, the best of the Irish. His accompanist will be Patrick Healy, a renowned musician, who also hails from Ireland.

"Anyone who has heard Mr. Kearns sing knows what an extraordinary gift he possesses in his powerful tenor. That he is lending his voice and his time to ThanksUSA for this evening is extremely generous," said Bob Okun, Chair of ThanksUSA. "As a result, we will be able to offer the gift of education to many more military families."

Mr. Kearns' commitment to ThanksUSA is not only lyrical but passionate, a refrain he recently revealed on national television. (View videos on [www.anthonykearnsmusic.com](http://www.anthonykearnsmusic.com).)

"I'm honored to be able to perform for the great military families of America," said Mr. Kearns. "I'm also very pleased to be associated with Governor Bob McDonnell, a rising political star who is himself of Irish descent. It was a huge honor to perform last year during Governor McDonnell's inaugural celebration and I appreciate the opportunity to join forces with him now on behalf of ThanksUSA."

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***Note to journalists:***

The invitation-only ThanksUSA President's Day benefit concert will take place 5 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on February 21 at a private residence in McLean, Virginia. Media credentials will be required. To arrange to attend the event and to set up interviews with Anthony Kearns and/or Gov. McDonnell, please contact:

Kirsten Fedewa, 703.684.3339 (o), 202.365.6936 (c); [kfedewa@fedewaconsulting.com](mailto:kfedewa@fedewaconsulting.com).

Mr. Kearns also will be available for interviews on a limited basis this Wednesday, February 16. Contact Ms. Fedewa if interested.

To set up interviews with ThanksUSA founders and leaders, contact Edie Clark, (703) 239-8877, [edie.clark@cox.net](mailto:edie.clark@cox.net).

For more information on ThanksUSA, go to [www.ThanksUSA.org](http://www.ThanksUSA.org).

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