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“WARRIOR CHAMPIONS” FROM BAGHDAD TO BEIJING

World Premiere to be held at 4th Annual Charlotte Film Festival

For Immediate Release - - Charlotte, N.C., 09.19.09 – The Charlotte Film Festival is proud to announce the World Premiere of “Warrior Champions” on Saturday, Sept. 26 and Sunday, Sept. 27. From Baghdad to Beijing, “Warrior Champions” tells the emotional and inspiring story of a group of severely wounded American soldiers as they fight to turn nightmares of war into Olympic dreams.

Just a year after losing limbs and suffering paralysis while fighting the war in Iraq, veterans Kortney Clemons, Scott Winkler, Melissa Stockwell and Carlos Leon set out to do what most think impossible – to compete in the 2008 Olympic Games. Traveling through the famous Ward 57 of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, this film documents the failure, pain and triumph these soldier athletes endured while competing for a spot on the U.S. Warrior Paralympics team.

If you’ve ever known a soldier, loved a soldier or lost one, this film will have meaning to you. Not only does it show the painful physical and emotional scars of war, it delves into the hearts of true warriors who do not quit. Instead, they lift up each other and continue to mentor and inspire those around them.

“I was put in this chair for a reason.” Scott Winkler says. “I want to inspire people not to give up.”

After returning from Beijing the soldiers testified before a Congressional panel seeking funding for future veterans to be afforded the same opportunities to become athletes. After watching a segment of “Warrior Champions” the panel awarded the effort \$10 million.

“Warrior Champions” is more than a documentary. It is a deep record of history that is building partnerships with organizations around the country that continue to advocate for military veterans.

Please join us at the Fourth Annual Charlotte Film Festival to see “Warrior Champions,” which screens twice: Saturday at 1 p.m. at Queens University and Sunday at 1 p.m. at EpiCentre Theaters in Uptown Charlotte. Tickets are \$8.

Filmmakers, Craig and Brent Renaud, have directed and produced numerous award-winning programs for HBO, Discovery, NBC, CNN, PBS, CBS, MTV and ESPN from Kosovo to Afghanistan, China and Iraq. They also have produced numerous other award-winning documentaries and recently returned from the front lines of the drug war in Juarez, Mexico where they produced a three-part series for the New York Times.

The Renaud Brothers are attending the festival with cast member US Army veteran Scott Winkler. They will take questions following each screening.

For more information please go to warriorchampions.com and www.charlottefilmfestival.org. For more information contact Victoria Cherrie, Public Relations Director at 704.615.4789 (m) or 704.342.5030 (o) or at vcherrie@charlottefilmfestival.org.

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