



For Immediate Release
Contact: Rebecca Campbell (301) 514-6316
Email: info@cfsrf.org

The Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund was honored to be guests invited by The Commandant of the Marine Corps and Mrs. Michael W. Hagee at an Evening Parade on May 5, 2006 that was in honor of The Honorable George W. Bush, The President of the United States at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C.

A reception preceded the parade in the beautiful and welcoming garden of The Home of the Commandants. President Bush and his wife, Laura walked through the grounds together and received a standing ovation prior to the Evening Parade. One hundred and fifty steel-plated rifle butts strike the concrete in perfect unison, echoing into the arcade. Each Marine is remarkable in his stature, standing at attention he is immaculately dressed and presents a striking presence on the grounds of the parade. Company A and Company B put on an unforgettable showing full of pride and respect for their colors. The Silent Drill Platoon Exhibition involves twenty-four Marines with M-1 Grand rifles. Not a single command is given as their rifles are twirled, tossed and caught with exact motion. The music included a beautifully played rendition of the prologue to Bernstein's, "West Side Story". As music was played throughout the evening the Home of the Commandants was brightly lit in the nighttime sky. "The President's Own" United States Marine Band is America's oldest professional musical organization. "The Commandant's Own" The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps travel throughout our nation, telling the Marine story through music and march. Some of the music included Man of the Hour, The Stars and Stripes Forever, God Bless the U.S.A., America and many others. The evening concluded with one lone Marine on the rooftop of the Marine Barracks playing "Taps" who was stood outlined in the evening sky. There were several officials present during this special evening, but the most welcome guests were the wounded Marines that were present. These young Marines were presently being treated at Walter Reed and suffered loss of limbs and other severe injuries. During their exit a standing ovation that lasted well over 10 minutes was given by all guests in attendance. The proud look on their faces told silent stories of their sacrifices and the honor of being a Marine. It is at these difficult times that we are often reminded of the sacrifices made by all our service members and their families, but without their strength, honor and service we would not be in a position to continue living our lives in Freedom. God Bless our men and women in uniform.

The Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that provides financial and emotional support to U.S. military children and spouses affected by the war on terrorism with College Grants and much needed financial assistance.