

## **NEWS RELEASE    IMMEDIATE RELEASE - FEB 28th (#2)**

WHAT:                    Press Conference & Medals of Valor Pick Up By USAFR  
WHERE:                  USTF National Office, (in Lobby) Stephens Bldg, 1005 Cherry St  
WHEN:                   Thursday, March 1st, 10:30 AM  
CONTACT:                Susan C. Haines National Executive Director 573-356-3093  
                              Staff Adjutant at 609-713-5542  
                              358 FS USAF MSGT Andrew VanHouten 660-233-0596 c  
                              LTC J. Parvin 660-687-3106  
MEDIA:                   Send TV Crew/Reporters/Photographers to Cover Event

### **Operation Intrepid Eagle, The Medals Of Valor Flight To Florida Begins On Thursday with USAF Pick Up of Medals In Downtown Columbia Historic USAF Honor Mission to Fallen 3 Cadets In Florida Shooting**

**Columbia Mo.** - On Thursday at 10:30 AM the journey of 3 *Medals of Combat Valor* along with MCV Citation Plaques will begin a journey from the Midwest to the United States Southeast coast. A 40lb box unlike no other, will be picked up by members of the United States Air Force at the USTF National Office at the Stephens Bldg in Downtown Columbia.

“We are calling it “*Operation Intrepid Eagle, The Medals of Valor Flight To Florida*” said Susan Haines, the USTF Executive Director. “The name refers to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School JROTC “Eagle Battalion” which lost the three cadets which we are honoring. “Intrepid comes from the ‘intrepid’ spirit that those cadets acted with bravery and courage that day. And Operation as this is now a USAF mission of honor. It is also historic. A nationally recognized honors foundation and distinguished combat unit from the heart of the Midwest have teamed up to honor 3 fallen cadets in the Florida shooting. What is essentially a USAF Honors Detail will take possession of the medals and box and stay with it until it reaches the MS Douglas High School JROTC unit in Florida.

“**When courage counted most**, those three JROTC Cadets, Peter Wang, Alaina Petty and Martin Duque answered that call. We can do no less than to honor their sacrifice” said Haines.

That honor begins on Thursday

**End**