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OHIO VETERANS UNITED ENDORSES JOHN KASICH FOR GOVERNOR

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Oct. 21, 2010 – Ohio Veterans United today announced the endorsement of John Kasich for Governor. The announcement was made by Col. Thomas Moe, honorary chair and founding member of Ohio Veterans United. “Following a thorough review of candidates’ backgrounds, experiences, and positions on issues, especially concerning Veteran’s issues, we believe that John Kasich shares our core values, including being a staunch and effective supporter of veterans,” says Moe.

“I have the greatest respect and gratitude for those serving the United States in the Armed Forces,” says Kasich. “And it is important that we support, our veterans, the men and women currently serving in the military, as well as their family members. As Governor I will ensure that the Ohio National Guard has top leadership, training and logistical support and I will ensure that our guard members’ legal rights are protected, especially when called up for active duty. I fully support the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve mission and encourage all Ohio employers to do likewise,” said Kasich. “I support our military receiving proper pay and benefits including health care and retirement and I will protect veterans preference in Ohio civil service positions.”

“During his 16-years in Congress, John Kasich showed strong support for our military and our veterans,” said Moe. “He served on the Armed Services Committee from 1983-2001 and as a member of that committee was responsible for key legislation, including defense budgets, active duty/reserve and guard pay and compensation. He was part of the team that developed and passed Joint Chiefs of Staff reform legislation that gave commanders in the field more authority, which has been credited with aiding our success in the Persian Gulf War. John Kasich was also a strong supporter of keeping Ohio military installations during the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) process to protect and add Ohio jobs.

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“Ohio Veterans United firmly stands behind the candidacy of John Kasich and looks forward to the day he becomes Governor of Ohio. The citizens of Ohio can rest assured that partisan politics will not be involved in any of his decisions--only what is best for Ohioans,” said Moe.

Col. Moe is a retired United States Air Force fighter pilot who fought in Vietnam and spent five years in captivity as a POW. Some of that time was spent at the Hanoi Hilton with John McCain. He has been active in civic affairs and a member of many community-service organizations.

“Our mission is to educate citizens on the need to maintain a strong military and to help elect qualified veterans and like-minded non-veterans to office,” says Harry Prestanski, executive director and founding member of Ohio Veterans United. “We are strong advocates of legislation that fully supports our troops, military families and veterans and we work to ensure that every military absentee ballot is counted in every election. Ohio Veterans United supports limited government, lower taxes, personal freedom with responsibility, elimination of government waste, and the responsible spending of taxpayer dollars.

“One of the greatest challenges facing veterans after leaving the military is transitioning military skills to civilian jobs,” said Prestanski. “Veterans today are highly trained and offer those intangible characteristics wanted by employers--leadership, integrity, and loyalty. The jobless rate in Ohio is about 10 percent, but the national jobless rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is 11.5 percent and for vets in the 25-29 age group there is an unemployment rate of 14.9 percent. The number one priority for our elected officials in supporting our veterans today should be creating an environment that encourages job creation and a robust economy that can reduce the unemployment rate for not only veterans, but for all Ohioans. We believe that John Kasich is the best candidate to meet those challenges.”

For more information about Ohio Veterans United go to www.ohioveteransunited.org or contact: Ohio Veterans United, 6896 Windwood Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241 or call 513-207-5101.

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