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Media Contact: Ali Putnam

Office: 512.301.6600

[Ali.Putnam@CircuitofTheAmericas.com](mailto:Ali.Putnam@CircuitofTheAmericas.com)

## Surviving family of fallen military hero to serve as Grand Marshals for American Le Mans race at Circuit of The Americas™

**AUSTIN, Texas (Sept. 19, 2013)** – As part of its support of the TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) organization, Circuit of The Americas will host the **McCloud family as Grand Marshals** for the *American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón* as part of **International SportsCar Weekend Sept. 20-22**. Sheena McCloud and her sons have been a part of the TAPS program for many years since the loss of their husband and father, **PFC Christopher McCloud**, in Iraq in 2007.

The McCloud family will serve as Grand Marshals, affording them the unique privilege of giving drivers the command to start their engines prior to the race. The family will give the command of “Drivers Start Your Engines” and will take part in the warm-up laps before the green flag is waved by Honorary Starter, Bobby Rahal.

PFC McCloud was a 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry soldier from Ft. Hood, Texas. In addition to being a soldier, McCloud was a family man, and his children were the joy of his life. He was part of a group that investigated new territory and was the first to seek out pockets of Al-Qaeda camps. As a cavalry scout he was the commander’s eyes and ears on the battlefield. His surviving family members have been active in the TAPS organization since their loss, and look forward to commemorating McCloud through this opportunity at Circuit of The Americas.

TAPS provides peer-based emotional support, grief and trauma resources, grief seminars and retreats for adults, Good Grief Camps for children, case work assistance, connections to community-based care, online and in-person care groups and a 24/7 resource and information helpline for all who have been affected by a death in the Armed Forces. Based in Washington, D.C., TAPS has regional offices and support staff in Central Texas at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss.

### **About Circuit of The Americas**

Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, is a world-class destination for premium sports and entertainment. It is the first racing facility in the United States purposely built for Formula 1™ racing and is designed to host a variety of sports and entertainment events. The Circuit is home to the **FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX**, which was named the 2012 “**Sports Event of the Year**” by *SportsBusiness Journal/Daily*, and is the new North American host of the summer edition of **ESPN’s X Games**. Additionally Circuit of The Americas welcomes spectators from around the world for some of the most prestigious national and international motorsports series, including MotoGP™, V8 Supercars™, GRAND-AM Road Racing™, American Le Mans and the FIA World Endurance Championships.

Circuit of The Americas’ 1,500-acre campus includes a variety of permanent structures designed for business, education, entertainment and sporting use. Its signature 3.4-mile, 20-turn undulating racetrack features remarkable elevation changes and a number of challenging turns patterned after some of the world’s iconic Grand Prix tracks. The **Austin360 Amphitheater** is an expansive outdoor live



music space, featuring the largest permanent stage in Central Texas and the capacity for 14,000 guests. The Circuit's iconic 25-story Observation Tower has a viewing platform offering 360-degree views of the venue, downtown Austin and Texas Hill Country. The 44,000-square foot **Event Center** offers an expansive convention and banquet space that doubles as an international Media Center during sports and entertainment event. The Event Center includes more than 30 broadcast booths, an internal café and dedicated news conference room. The Circuit's massive **Main Grandstand** features permanent seating for 9,000, a variety of well-appointed suites, and the Velocity Lounge and hospitality area. Circuit of The Americas also offers a state-of-the-art on-site medical facility, parking for 25,000 vehicles, taxi and shuttle bus depots and a permanent heli-stop. For more information and downloadable video, audio and photos, visit: [www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com](http://www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com), [www.Austin360Amphitheater.com](http://www.Austin360Amphitheater.com) or the Circuit's dedicated FTP site, [media.circuitoftheamericas.com](http://media.circuitoftheamericas.com).

#### **About TAPS**

TAPS is the national organization providing compassionate care for the families of America's fallen military heroes. Services are provided free of charge. TAPS has offered support to more than 40,000 surviving family members of our fallen military and the caregivers assisting them since 1994. For more information go to [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org) or call the toll-free resource and information help line at 1.800.959.TAPS (8277).

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