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KZF to Honor Soldiers Thursday at ‘Meet My Hero’ Show
On Exhibit: U.S. Soldiers’ Photographs from Iraq

CINCINNATI, OH (August 26, 2008) – In stirring scenes of war, soldiers’ photographs from Iraq will be displayed and the soldiers will be honored Thursday in an exhibit entitled *Meet My Hero* at the KZF Gallery. The soldiers will be recognized at **5:30 p.m. Thursday** at the KZF Gallery, on the seventh floor of the Baldwin Building at 655 Eden Park Drive in Cincinnati.

A Marine Reservist who served with Lima Company, the hardest hit combat unit of the Iraq War, will be awarded first place in the show for his photograph of Marines mourning the death of a company leader. **Sgt. Kris Fox’s** reserve unit of 168 Marines from Ohio suffered 48 casualties, including 23 deaths and 25 seriously injured in just seven months in Iraq in 2005. Their harsh war experience became the subject of



national news stories and an A&E TV documentary. *The Lima Company Memorial*, honoring the fallen, is on display at the Statehouse in Columbus through Veteran’s Day.

Many of the soldiers who submitted photographs to KZF were with the 478th Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army and returned from Iraq just a couple of months ago. The result is a telling display of recent scenes from the War in Iraq.



In a surprise turn, **World War II Combat Photographer Tom Austin** also will be present to be honored at the KZF event. Austin, now 92 years old and living in Fort Thomas, Ky., served with the Army and photographed WWII scenes in Europe and the Pacific in the 1940s. His photographs, including previously unpublished photos of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, will be on display.

The *Meet My Hero* exhibit honors the **Armed Forces Tickets Association** and AFTA Cincinnati’s founder and director, Joyce Elkus. The show also presents the work of **Cincinnati Arts and Technology Center** students, whose art depict their heroes. The Center, founded after the Cincinnati riots of 2001, provides arts education and training to urban teens as a means of motivating them to stay in school and advance to higher learning.



Joining the events on Thursday will be the **family of SSgt Matt Maupin**, captured by Iraqi insurgents in 2004. The Cincinnati region joined the Maupin family in a four-year vigil for the missing-in-action soldier, until he was confirmed dead by the U.S. Army in March 2008.

KZF Design will host an **Opening Night Reception 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Thursday, August 28**. KZF Design is a national architecture and engineering firm that has provided design work for the

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U.S. Department of Defense and numerous U.S. military installations. KZF's clients also include the Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, the University of Cincinnati, The E.W. Scripps Company, Citigroup and Toyota.

Honoring AFTA and Joyce Elkus

The *Meet My Hero* exhibit honors the beneficial work of the Armed Forces Tickets Association-Cincinnati and AFTA-Cincinnati's founder and director, Joyce Elkus. AFTA-Cincinnati was created to show appreciation to active U.S. Military, Guard and Reserves men, women and their families by making available free or deeply discounted event tickets by partnering with arts, entertainment and sports organizations. The organization was launched in March. Dr. Stanley M. Kaplan is a generous supporter of AFTA. KZF Design is a supporting partner of the non-profit organization. Learn more about AFTA at www.AFTA-Cincinnati.org.

About this Exhibit

KZF Design invited members of the 478th Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army, headquartered in Fort Thomas, and other soldiers returning from service in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan to submit photographs they had taken while serving in the Middle East. *Meet My Hero* is an exhibit by KZF Gallery that includes these soldiers' photographs.

The exhibit also showcases the work of students of the Cincinnati Arts and Technology Center. The Center, a non-profit organization, provides arts to urban teens as a means of motivating them to stay in school and advance to higher learning. It also provides education and training to the unemployed and underemployed, dislocated workers and individuals transitioning from public assistance. The Center was launched in 2003 and is located at Longworth Hall in the Queensgate area.

About KZF Gallery

The KZF Gallery represents a 20-year commitment by KZF Design to showcase the work of the region's artists. The gallery is a unique concept in Cincinnati — a commercial art gallery in corporate space — and is open to the public during KZF Design office hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. KZF Design is one of the largest and oldest architecture and engineering firms in Greater Cincinnati. It operates the KZF Gallery within the corporate offices of KZF Design in the historic Baldwin Building at 655 Eden Park Drive near Eden Park in Cincinnati. Admission to KZF Gallery is free. Phone: 513-621-6211. Visit www.kzf.com/gallery.

About KZF Design, Inc.

KZF Design, Inc. is a national full-service architecture, engineering, interior design and planning firm. Now in its sixth decade, KZF Design has more than 110 professionals and technicians on staff. The firm's headquarters are in Cincinnati; KZF also has offices in Atlanta, Ga., and an affiliated firm, KZF Design LLC of Florida, with offices in Orlando and Tampa. KZF Design's clients include the Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, the University of Cincinnati, The E.W. Scripps Company, Citigroup and Toyota. KZF also has completed many contracts for the U.S. Department of Defense and federal government. Visit www.kzf.com.

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