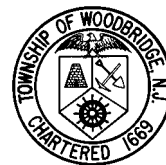


NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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- ▶ **Benefit for Wounded Port Reading Soldier Set for Oct. 14**
- ▶ **Mayor McCormac urges community support for hometown hero**

WOODBIDGE – Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac is urging the community to turn out in record numbers for a benefit breakfast supporting the recovery efforts of a Port Reading soldier wounded in Iraq.

“Sgt. Earl McCracken is a brave young man who has made an incredible sacrifice for his country,” said Mayor McCormac. “We want to show him and his family that his dedication and service mean a lot to the people on whose behalf he fought.”

A breakfast to aid Sgt. McCracken will be held Sunday, Oct. 14 from 8-11 a.m. at the Woodbridge Elks Club, 665 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge. Tickets are \$6 adults, \$3 children with children under 5 years old admitted free. For tickets call the Woodbridge Township Recreation Dept. at (732) 596-4048.

The 23-year-old infantryman was leading a platoon in an area of Iraq known as the “Triangle of Death” when he was injured by a concealed IED (improvised explosive device). After numerous surgeries, Sgt. McCracken is able to walk again but will require extensive physical and occupational therapy.

“One hundred per cent of the money we raise at this breakfast will go to Sgt. McCracken,” said Mayor McCormac. “He is an asset to our community, and we want to do everything we can to help him come back stronger than ever.”

“Sgt. McCracken is a true leader,” added **First Ward Councilman Charles Kenny**, who spearheads the Township’s annual Support Our Troops rally. “We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to him and his fellow soldiers.”

Councilman Greg Bedard, whose Third Ward covers Port Reading, said, “It is very important that we take care of our own. I hope people from all sections of Woodbridge come out to support Earl and all of our troops.”

Mayor McCormac paid tribute to the Woodbridge Elks’ longstanding tradition of grass-roots aid. “The Woodbridge Elks always come through when a community group or individual needs help. We thank them once again for making their hall available to us. We raised over \$5,000 at our animal shelter fundraiser, and we hope to do even better at this breakfast.”