



Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore

MISSION: MAIL CALL

Keeping our military community & friends of USO-Metro connected across the National Capital Region

METRO SHOWCASES MILITARY CUISINE AT METROCOOKING DC

Metrocooking DC, a 2-day culinary extravaganza in the heart of the nation's capital, is set to kick off its 15th year this Thursday, December 4, at the **Washington Convention Center**. This year, USO-Metro is honored to be both a partner and a participant in this incredible event.

We're breaking out our best recipes, cookware, and aprons at our own USO-Metro booth, and we'll be joined by **Garden Works**, our home-grown (pun intended) community of active duty family gardeners formed to recreate community in the 2020 lockdown.

We'll also be serving up great giveaways like vintage military recipe cards that you can bring from family to field, and spreading the word of the USO along the way!

We cannot thank **Metrocooking DC** enough for their incredible support. Their partnership is invaluable in the fulfillment of our mission. We can't wait to see what this year's outing has in store!



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

ENLISTED AIDE OF THE YEAR HONORED AT SALUTE TO MILITARY CHEFS DINNER

The USO welcomed active duty families, supporters, and celebrity guests to the **Ritz Carlton Pentagon City** for the Salute to Military Chefs dinner and Enlisted Aide of the Year award ceremony. Attendees were treated to expertly crafted courses by some of the nation's best active duty chefs, plus specially curated wine pairings and chef highlights.

The evening concluded with a special presentation of the Enlisted Aide of the Year Award by WWE Global Ambassador **Titus O'Neil** and Raw correspondent **Sarah Schreiber**. Our sincerest congratulations to 2021's recipient **Culinary Specialist 1st Class Georges Labaki**, the enlisted aide to U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Sean Buck.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

SALUTE TO THE TROOPS LAS VEGAS '21 WELCOMES 95 WALTER REED FAMILIES

Salute to the Troops, USO-Metro's program bringing wounded warriors from Bethesda's Walter Reed Medical Hospital on a week-long dream vacation, came together again for the 2021 Salute to the Troops Las Vegas with **American Airlines** and USO Las Vegas.

95 recovering servicemembers and their families were welcomed at The **MGM Resorts** Mirage hotel for a week of the best of Vegas, with highlights like a special concert with **Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band**, a visit to the Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay, and individual excursions and experiences around Nevada. Thank you to all our staff, supporters, and partners that helped us execute another life-changing chapter of this program.

