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Contact: Taryn Duffy office 914-457-2431 cell 914-819-7972

Email: TDuffy@yonkersraceway.com

**Wounded Warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan Wars
Receive "Empire" Welcome for New York City Visit**

Legendary Sports Family & Owners of Empire City Casino Honor Troops
with Lunch at Famed Tribeca Grill in Manhattan

NEW YORK – **The Rooney Family**, owners of **Empire City Casino**, New York's most successful casino, hosted a group of active military personnel who were wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, along with family members of the troops, to a lunch at actor Robert De Niro's famed Tribeca Grill today. This lunch is the second that the Rooneys and Empire City Casino have hosted for wounded military members in conjunction with a trip that is organized by the Baltimore Police and Operation Homefront to bring veterans currently residing at Walter Reed Medical Center to New York City for a well-deserved outing.

The Baltimore Police Department partnered with area police departments from Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York to escort the troops on their trip from Walter Reed Medical Center to New York City. The day began with a tour of the 9/11 Memorial, followed by a three-course lunch sponsored by Empire City Casino at Tribeca Grill in honor of the troops. Afterwards, the service members and their families headed to NBC Studios at Rockefeller Center for a taping of Late Night with Jimmy Fallon.

Commissioner Frederick Bealefield of the Baltimore Police Department took a moment at the lunch to address all of the attendees, thanking the many parties involved for making the day possible for the troops, particularly the medical personnel who accompanied the wounded warriors, allowing the active military members to enjoy a day out of the hospital as New York City tourists. He went on to thank the Rooney family and Empire City Casino for their generosity in hosting the lunch portion of the event for the second time.

"This was a small gesture compared to what these brave men and women have given of themselves," said **Timothy J. Rooney, Jr.** "We are honored to have been given the opportunity to do this for them."

The Baltimore Police Department arranged to create a video of the trip that will be given to the military members as a souvenir when it is complete. It will include video messages from Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell as well as New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand who serves on the Armed Services Committee, both of whom were unable to attend the lunch in person.

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