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Friends of the IDF Expands Throughout the Southeast Region

Following the success of the FIDF Georgia Region, FIDF expands mission to include Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina

Atlanta, GA, September 16, 2013 – Friends of the IDF (FIDF) Georgia Region announces its name change to FIDF Southeast Region preceding its expansion, which will include Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina. Under the leadership of recently appointed Executive Director **Seth Baron**, the chapter will continue its efforts to raise awareness and support for the wellbeing of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers in the new communities, which have demonstrated steadfast support for the State of Israel and its soldiers.

At the age of 18, young Israeli men and women must join the IDF and uphold the difficult task of defending the State of Israel. FIDF has assumed the responsibility of providing all Israeli soldiers with love and support in an effort to ease the burden they carry on behalf of the Jewish community worldwide. FIDF was established as a not-for-profit organization in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors with the mission of supporting educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for these brave soldiers. The organization also offers services to the families of fallen soldiers.

FIDF operates through 15 chapters around the United States and Panama and has experienced unprecedented growth over the last few years thanks to its expanding donor base and exceptional generosity. Last year, FIDF was extremely successful in its programming, including: the IMPACT! Program, which granted academic scholarships to 3,400 combat soldiers; the LEGACY Program, which brought 80 Bar/Bat Mitzvah children, who have lost a loved one in action, on a trip to the U.S., hosted about 700 widows at Rest and Relaxation Centers in Israel, and funded workshops for nearly 1,000 bereaved siblings; the DIGNITY Program, which provided financial assistance and holiday gift-vouchers to over 8,000 soldiers in-need; and the Lone Soldiers Program, which assisted more than 2,700 Lone Soldiers through every stage of their military service.

The FIDF Southeast Region supports these programs and will also participate in a newly launched initiative that combines many FIDF programs called "Adopt a Brigade." Through the "Adopt a Brigade" initiative, the FIDF Southeast Region will provide support for thousands of soldiers serving in the Combat Intelligence Corps through an array of wellbeing and recreational activities, as well as assistance to Lone Soldiers in the corps' various units.

“Our expansion throughout the Southeast is a critical step to enhance and strengthen the mission of FIDF,” said FIDF Southeast Region Executive Director Seth Baron. “We look forward to working with all of the Pro-Israel communities in the Southeast as we continue to provide for the men and women who serve in the IDF and who fight relentlessly to defend the Jewish homeland.”

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About Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF):

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of providing and supporting educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for the heroic men and women of the IDF. Today, FIDF has more than 120,000 loyal supporters, and 15 regional offices throughout the U.S. and Panama. FIDF proudly offers its support to the IDF soldiers and their families through a variety of unique and innovative programs. These opportunities reinforce the vital bond between the communities in the United States, the soldiers of the IDF, and the State of Israel. For more information, please visit: www.fidf.org.