For Immediate Release

“Wounded Veterans & The Arts: The Odd Couple That Works”

*Brewster, NY. June 25, 2014.* Wounded veterans and the Arts may not be seen often in the same sentence, yet, 7:30pm Friday June 27th at Brewster High School’s Performing Arts Center wounded veterans and The Arts combine together in a successful fit. Arts, Culture, and Community promoter H.G. Fairfield Arts Center for the Environment brings home national comedian PJ Walsh to benefit a unique transition program for wounded veterans in Semper Fi Odyssey, to pay homage to Brewster VFW Post #672’s 75 years of continual service, and to raise funds and awareness for local Brewster programs for veterans, including BHS’ Semper Fi Students.

 “With every U.S. community welcoming our 2.5 million troops returning home from wars since 2001\*, with families and friends scrambling to fill health care voids left by overloaded systems, budget cuts, and employment shifts, creative problem solving our veterans’ and families’ needs becomes everyone’s shared focus;” states H. G. Fairfield Arts President Kim Blacklock; “Communities barn-raise for each other, we know co-operation works; via the mix of Arts and veteran support groups we as a community get to come together to affect healing and creating positive choices for a better quality of life for each other.” Semper Fi Odyssey is a wholistic program run in the mountains of Pennsylvania by Major General T.S. Jones (USMC, RET) for all military branches’ discharged wounded, ill, or injured veterans; seven hundred have completed retreats and continue their transition back into civilian life since 2008. Blacklock continues: “Yoga is just one technique used to help at Semper Fi Odyssey, exercise another, and positive thinking, too. Art therapy is becoming more widely utilized everywhere with veterans, while the next 20 year’s employment growth percentage boons are solidly in arts, recreation, health, and the environment \*\*. Many of the recognized stress reducers by the National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention \*\*\* are inherent in the pursuits of arts, cultural, and recreational activities. What looks like performance art and a rollicking night of comedy, actually steps out of a planned campaign with Brewster VFW Post #672 and others to find veterans and families who need help, to apply some community love to the problem by supporting locally-led programs that work well, and to move on together.”

 This Friday June 27th at 7:30pm you can see for yourself the powerful mix of how wounded veterans and the Arts works at Brewster High School’s Performing Arts Center. The Comedy Show is headlining a local Navy veteran returning home to help those already here helping. The spectacle is benefitting incredible locally-led programs serving wounded veterans and their families well. The event demonstrates through the talented generous likes of PJ Walsh, Mary Dimino, Lou Milano, and H.G. Fairfield Arts Founder Kathie Freston (USMCR ’53-64) that the Arts in service to the community, and in particular to our veterans, culturally contributes to a better quality of life for all of us.

 Tickets are $20 at the door, online, or at Sponsor locations. Entering the discount code of “700” online at <http://www.thebansbeenlifted.bpt.me> , to make it easier for you to help wounded veterans. For more info call 845-363-1559, email office@HGFairfieldArts.org, or visit [www.HGFairfieldArts.org](http://www.HGFairfieldArts.org) or [www.PJWalsh.com](http://www.PJWalsh.com). -///-

 Links: \* <http://costsofwar.org/article/us-veterans-and-military-families>

\*\* <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=122312>

\*\*\* <http://www.prevention.va.gov/Healthy_Living/Manage_Stress.asp>