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October 15, 2009

## Parties for Great Causes!

Join *The Scene Bisnow* and *Italians in DC* at Eye Bar, 1716 Eye St, NW, for *The Italian Party!* Friday, **Oct 23**, 9pm-2am. Peroni models, drink specials including the **Negroni**, and, of course, *Italians!* [RSVP](#)

**Last night**, we braved the rain and headed downtown to **three parties** celebrating worthy causes. First stop, the **Newseum**, for the **2009 Treasure Our Troops Gala**, benefiting ThanksUSA (**Treasure Hunt Aiding Needs of Kids and Spouses of those serving the USA**). It was founded four years ago from an idea of two sisters when they were 8 and 10.



**Rachel and Kelsi Okun** of McLean got the idea during a 2005 family vacation. Since then, ThanksUSA has awarded 1,750 scholarships totaling over **\$5 million** so military family members can pursue educational opportunities, winning praise from **President Bush 41 and 43** and **Michelle Obama**.



NBC's **Michael Jack** and NBC TODAY co-host **Natalie Morales** flank the girls' mom, trade guru **Deanna Okun**. Many corporations have signed on to say ThanksUSA, including **American Airlines**, which will fly wounded troops in a 747 to **Las Vegas** on November 11. **The Venetian** has donated rooms for the troops, who will see shows by **Wayne Newton** and **Blue Man Group**, also donating the show's proceeds to ThanksUSA.



Legendary songwriters **Monty Holmes** and **Leslie Satcher**, who've penned hits for **George Strait**, **Willie Nelson**, **Bonnie Raitt**, and **Vince Gill**, headlined. They're with Leslie's husband **David Allen**, who produces their shows. The duo will perform at the **Grand Ole Opry** on November 9 with proceeds going to ThanksUSA.



Keynote speaker, **Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey Jr.** (right), here with major sponsor, Blavatnik Family Foundation's **Peter Thoren**, and **Michelle** and **Elisabeth Bond**, praised ThanksUSA for supporting those defending our freedom