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**Press Release**  
*For Immediate Release*

**American Fallen Soldiers Project to Present Portrait of Fallen Soldier at  
2009 Michigan Works! for People Annual Conference**

*A Hand Painted Original Portrait of Army PFC Mark Barbret of Shelby Township, Mich. Will Be  
Presented to His Family at a Special Ceremony Held During the Opening Session*

LANSING, Mich. (August 13, 2009) – Michigan Works! Association will incorporate a special ceremony during the opening session of the 2009 Michigan Works! for People Annual Conference, September 13-15, 2009, dedicated to the late Army PFC Mark Barbret of Shelby Township, Mich.

“Through our partnership with the American Fallen Soldiers Project, we are able to honor a local fallen hero and say thank you to his family for his service to our country,” said Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer, Michigan Works! Association.

Pvt. Mark A. Barbret of Shelby Township was killed October 14, 2004, when the vehicle he was riding in hit a bomb near Ramadi, Iraq. He was a member of the Army’s 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division.

Barbret and Nicole Hale had a 3-year-old son, Christian, at the time of his death. Barbret, an Army mechanic, attended Utica Eisenhower High School and served a year in Korea before his unit was transferred to Iraq.

Texas artist Phil Taylor and his wife Lisa of the American Fallen Soldiers Project will present the hand painted portrait to the Barbret family at a special ceremony held in conjunction with the 2009 Michigan Works! for People Annual Conference. The ceremony will take place at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. during the opening session of the Conference, Monday, September 14 at 8:30 a.m.

“It is our hope and prayer that our efforts to restore the life and heroism of PFC Mark Barbret on canvas will help bring him home to his family and the great state of Michigan,” said Phil Taylor, founder, American Fallen Soldiers Project.

As the largest workforce development Conference in Michigan, this event offers dynamic keynote presentations and a wide array of professional development opportunities. Attendees take away timely, relevant and impactful information to directly and positively affect workforce development in Michigan.

The American Fallen Soldiers Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to honoring the memory of America’s fallen heroes by presenting family members with custom portraits of their late loved one at no cost. For more information, visit [www.americanfallensoldiers.com](http://www.americanfallensoldiers.com).

Established in 1987, the Michigan Works! Association fosters high-quality employment and training programs serving employers and workers by providing support activities and a forum for information exchange for Michigan’s workforce development system.

For more information, visit [www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org), or call (517) 371-1100.

Members of the media wishing to cover the ceremony should contact Malorie Kersten, (517) 371-1100 ext. 208.

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