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October 16, 2006

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## ***AMERICAN MOURNING* reveals the tragic loss of two young soldiers in Iraq—polarizing a nation searching for the meaning of sacrifice**

*They fought together as brothers-in-arms. They died together and now they sleep side by side. To them we have a solemn obligation. —Admiral Chester W. Nimitz*

**Annapolis, MD**— Resting in the ground of their hometowns are two soldiers—Justin and Casey—friends who lost their lives in the name of freedom. Justin's final resting place is decorated with handmade flags. For two years, Casey's had no marker to tell the world that he lived, fought, and died a hero. *American Mourning* is the story of the anguish that overwhelmed two American families and divided a nation as the families' dramatically different responses to their grief shocked the country. *American Mourning* describes not only the loss of two young men, but also exposes the drama, corruption, and sadness during their loved ones' journeys of mourning.

Justin Johnson and Casey Sheehan met at Fort Hood, Texas, and instantly became close friends. They lost their lives in Iraq only six days apart. Justin's father, Joe Johnson, turned his sorrow into pride, vowing to join the war on terror himself to avenge his son's death. Casey's mother, Cindy Sheehan, wanted another type of revenge: Instead of honoring her son's sacrifice, she blamed President Bush for her loss, calling the Muslim radicals who had killed Casey "freedom fighters."

Sheehan quickly became a media phenomenon—America's best-known antiwar activist since Jane Fonda. In fact, *American Mourning* reveals hard evidence that Sheehan received financial support from John Kerry to continue retaliating against President Bush for her son's death.

The Sheehans and the Johnsons are the extremes of grief-stricken parents of war, magnifying the gap in how Americans view the war on terror:

- The Sheehan family shattered into factions that may never again reunite. The Johnson family bonded: The extended family came together for reunions at least once a month.
- Cindy Sheehan has taken money to speak about her son and against the war on terror. The Johnsons have refused money, but speak freely when asked about the war.
- The Sheehans oppose the war. The Johnsons support it.
- Cindy and Pat Sheehan are divorced. Joe and Jan Johnson's marriage is stronger than ever before.

Catherine Moy is an award-winning journalist, Pulitzer Prize nominee, and columnist for the Vacaville Reporter, Cindy Sheehan's former hometown newspaper. Melanie Morgan is a talk radio host in San Francisco, weekly columnist for WorldNetDaily and Chairman of Move America Forward. She is a broadcast journalist with over 30 years experience, specializing in 'hot-spot' reporting from Beirut, Lebanon to Beijing, China.

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**To schedule an interview with Melanie Morgan or Catherine Moy, please contact Kristen Schremp at [kristen@kaspublicity.com](mailto:kristen@kaspublicity.com) or 703.928.5527**