



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marlene Lee
Phone: 301-523-1755
E-mail: lee@earlylightpress.com
Website: www.earlylightpress.com

Contact: Katie Kindelan
Phone: 202-585-2052
Email: kkindelan@webershandwick.com
Website: www.militarychild.org

EXPERTS DISCUSS MILITARY- CONNECTED CHILDREN AND GRIEF

April 23, 2007 – On Monday, April 30 at 8:00 p.m. (EST), Dr. Mary A. Keller, Executive Director of the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC™) and Marlene Lee, author of *“The Hero in My Pocket,”* will discuss the sensitive topic of children’s grief with Tara Crooks, host of Army Wife Talk Radio.

Dr. Keller will discuss the MCEC™’s new, public training initiative titled: “Living in the New Normal: Supporting Children through Trauma and Loss.”

Lee will share the “ABCs of Children’s Grief – Family-friendly Tips for Helping Children.”

Army Wife Talk Radio is broadcast live via the website www.blogtalkradio.com/awtr and listeners may join the discussion on Monday via phone or yahoo chat software.

Nearly two million children have a parent or loved one serving in the military. The April 30 show will address a sensitive topic: the death of a Service Member and its affect on children, including the deceased Service Member’s children, step-children, nieces, nephews, cousins, and other young relatives and friends.”

“The MCEC™ is committed to providing tools and resources for the entire community to help military-connected children and their families,” said Dr. Keller.

Added Lee, “Children are often overlooked as grievers; it is crucial that we as a community give them a voice for their grief.”

Lee, an author and Thanatologist, wrote *“The Hero in My Pocket”* to help children whose lives have been affected by the death of a U.S. service member. The book features child-centered military themes, along with *“Hero Pages”* for writing and drawing. The interactive format encourages communication and understanding among children and adults on the difficult topics of grief and recovery. Lee is also the mother of an Army soldier currently deployed to Iraq.

Dr. Keller brings more than 20 years of experience in education to her role as Executive Director of the MCEC™, an international non-profit organization focused on the development and education of military-connected children. As Executive Director, Dr. Keller has most recently led the development and execution of the MCEC™’s new,

public training initiative titled: “Living in the New Normal: Supporting Children through Trauma and Loss.”

The April 30th 8:00 p.m. (EST) show will mark the third guest appearance for Lee and the second appearance for Dr. Keller on Army Wife Talk Radio.

About the MCEC™

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC™) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes partnerships and provides for networking of military installations and their supporting school districts. Their focus is to address transition and other educational issues related to the military-connected child, including active duty, National Guard, and Reserves. MCEC™ seeks to include all military installations, their supporting schools, concerned organizations, and caring individuals. For more information, please visit www.militarychild.org

###