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## Wounded Veterans to Lead 400 Swimmers Across Straits of Mackinac Registration for the New Mighty Mac Swim opens today

(St. Ignace, Michigan) A team of four wounded U.S. Veterans are planned to lead 400 swimmers in an unprecedented combined attempt to swim between Michigan's peninsulas, across the 4- mile width of the Straits of Mackinac. The Veteran Swim team will symbolically and ceremoniously lead the internationally-sanctioned Mighty Mac Swim when the newly-expanded event is reintroduced on August 11, 2019. The swim, now open for mass participation, is intended to empower Veterans and raise funds for a select Michigan Veterans organization.

Plans for the new Mighty Mac Swim were announced today, in conjunction with the opening of registration, by Jim Dreyer, the swim's Event Director. Dreyer himself has swum across the Straits of Mackinac multiple times in addition to swimming across all five Great Lakes.

"We really have two incredible stories here," Dreyer said. "It was the Mighty Mac Swim which opened swimming the Straits of Mackinac to public participation back in 2007. In 2019 we will take participation to the highest level. Once an attainable quest for only a select few, this event allows a multitude of athletes to safely partake in a true "bucket list" experience. Not long ago it was unthinkable that there were 400 swimmers who could swim the Straits of Mackinac at all, let alone all at once."

"The most inspirational part of the story though, is that a team of American heroes who wear the scars of their sacrifices for our freedom, will once again demonstrate their courage to take on this challenge in the face of their physical and invisible wounds of war."

Once the benefiting Michigan Veterans organization is officially named, the members of the Veteran Swim Team will be announced and their stories of valor revealed.

The Mighty Mac Swim also recognizes the significant military history of the Straits of Mackinac area. Uniquely designed trophies, symbolic of the two historic 18<sup>th</sup> century forts in the area (Fort Michilimackinac & Fort Mackinac), will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers.

"The Mighty Mac swim is held as a competition, but whether or not you wish to race, everyone who makes it across the Straits of Mackinac is indeed a champion," Dreyer said.

For more information and to register for the Mighty Mac Swim, go to <a href="www.MightyMacSwim.com">www.MightyMacSwim.com</a>.