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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sgt. Respicio Returns to Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls

BLACK RIVER FALLS-Nov. 12, 2013: Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls (HCG BRF) held a “Welcome Home” celebration for Sgt. Nicholas Respicio who had been called to active duty a year ago, leaving his position as a Security Officer. Upon leaving for active duty, Sgt. Respicio nominated HCG BRF for the WI. Employer Support of Guard and Reserve’s “Above and Beyond” award and subsequently, they were selected as a recipient of this award and accepted it in April, 2013.

Sgt. Respicio was a new employee when he was called to active duty and therefore was not guaranteed his job would be there when he returned. The Casino’s Executive Manager, Greg Garvin, said “assuring Sgt. Respicio that his position would be waiting for him when he got back was an easy decision considering what he and every other Service man and woman do for our Country.” He went on to say that “we do our best to find ways to help support and pay tribute to our military members.”

At the Welcome Home ceremony, Nicholas said a few words, giving thanks to all of the HCG BRF Management for not only allowing him to return to his position, but for taking care of his family while he was away, giving them the Nation’s employee and holiday benefits and for all of the support he has received. Director of Security, Mark Thundercloud along with Greg Garvin both spoke about the gratitude that all of the staff at the Casino had for Nicholas and how much they were all anticipating his return. Nicholas was given a Pendleton blanket for his service and fellow staff member Butch Baker made an eagle feather wood plaque with coins imbedded in it from the Ho-Chunk Nation, the ESGR and the Armed Forces.

HCG BRF currently has 2 military fundraisers taking place, the employees are collecting items to be sent to deployed soldiers through Operation Homefront and the other is through the upcoming BlackHawk/Jared Blake concert where \$5 of each ticket sold will go towards the VFW’s Unmet Needs program which provides financial support for the families of deployed military men and women. HCG BRF also helped with the funding to send close to 100 WWII and Korean Veterans on the Badger Honor Flight on Oct. 19th.

Pictured-from L to R: Robert Reider-Director of Marketing, Mark Thundercloud-Security Director, Sgt. Nicholas Respicio-Security Officer and Greg Garvin, Executive Manager.

Ho-Chunk Gaming – Black River Falls is owned and operated by Ho-Chunk Nation Enterprises, with headquarters in Black River Falls, Wis. Ho-Chunk Nation Enterprises also owns and operates Ho-Chunk Gaming – Madison, Nekoosa, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells and Wittenberg. For more information, call Ho-Chunk Gaming – Black River Falls at 800/657-4621 or go online www.ho-chunggaming.com.