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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS TO PRESENT SHORT  
DOCUMENTARY ON HEROISM OF U.S. SOLDIER DURING WORLD WAR II AT NJ  
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

WEST ORANGE, New Jersey – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) will present its award-winning short documentary titled “Footsteps of My Father,” at the New Jersey Jewish Film Festival on April 1 at 7:30pm at the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ. This is the New Jersey premiere for the documentary.

The film explores the heroism of Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds in saving the lives of 200 Jewish American soldiers during the Second World War. The narrative, told through the lens of Edmond’s son, Pastor Chris Edmonds, and several American Jewish POWs, was directed by Paul Allman, and produced by JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl and Dean Beals who has co-produced JFR documentaries for many years. Ted Koppel, of ABC News’ Nightline, provided the historical narration for the film.

Master Sgt. Edmonds was captured during the Battle of the Bulge by the German Army on December 19, 1944. As the highest-ranking officer in the Stalag IXA, a prisoner of war camp, Edmonds was responsible for the camp's 1,292 American POWs. The camp’s commandant ordered Edmonds to identify the Jewish soldiers in order to separate them from the other prisoners. Instead, Edmonds refused, and when the German commandant placed his pistol against Edmonds' head, demanding that he identify the Jewish soldiers, Edmonds responded "We are all Jews here," refusing to identify the Jewish soldiers thereby saving their lives.

FOOTSTEPS OF MY FATHER – NJ PREMIERE  
TAKE-2-2-2-2-2

Edmonds survived 100 days of captivity, and returned home after the war, but never spoke of his actions. Edmonds passed away in 1985, and only long after did his son, Pastor Chris Edmonds begin to put together the story of his father's heroism during the war. Posthumously, Edmond's actions have been recognized by Yad Vashem and The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The narrative of film follows the younger Edmond's exploration of the episode during the war.

“Master Sgt. Edmonds's story, one not only of heroism but also one of humility, provides an incredible role model to today's leaders and to so many others. During his lifetime, he chose not to publicize his actions, and the story of his son's discovery of them provides an incredible window into the Greatest Generation,” said Stahl. “We are pleased to share his story with an even wider audience through this film.”

There will be a post-screening discussion with Pastor Chris Edmonds and The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl.

The film has received many awards including the Award of Excellence Special Mention by The Best Shorts Film Competition (2018), 2<sup>nd</sup> place Documentary Short Film Award at the KNOX Film Festival (2018) and the Best Shorts Competition 2018 Humanitarian Awards.

The JFR continues its work of providing monthly financial assistance to more than 300 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 20 countries. Since its founding, the JFR has provided more than \$40 million to aged and needy rescuers – helping to repay a debt of gratitude on behalf of the Jewish people to these noble men and women. Its Holocaust teacher education program has become a standard for teaching the history of the Holocaust and educating teachers and students about the significance of the Righteous as moral and ethical exemplars. For more information, visit <https://jfr.org/>.