

# Tribute to the Troops 2012: A Special That Doesn't Feel Special At All. The Muppets Are Awesome Though

## Tribute to the Troops 2012

Date: December 19, 2012

Location: Norfolk Scope, Norfolk, Virginia

Commentators: John Bradshaw Layfield, Michael Cole

This is the tenth anniversary of the biggest publicity stunt WWE does every year. The wrestling tonight is going to be light and the ratings are going to be a lot more lax with this show. The main idea here is to have the troops feel good and there's really nothing else to it other than that. Let's get to it.

The standard video from the President and opening video of "it means more to us" start things off.

## Sheamus/Randy Orton vs. Dolph Ziggler/Big Show

The governor of Virginia is here. They're playing this up as live or at least recent, as they mention Orton's separated shoulder from the Smackdown that aired 12 days ago. Actually the injury seemed to occur in this match so who knows what's going on. Orton and Ziggler start things off with Barrett pounding away. The commentary is talking about the stuff that happened in the last two nights, so either it was recorded later or they had some BIG spoilers given to Cole and JBL. Show and Ziggler are knocked to the floor and walk away for the countout at 2:20. Well that was pointless.

Oh never mind here's Booker to say continue the match after a break. Back with Orton pounding on Dolph. Sheamus comes in and gets dropkicked down, but Show drops to the floor to tie his boot rather than face Sheamus. There are the ten forearms to Dolph's chest and it's back to Randy to

pound away in the corner. He charges into a boot though and Ziggler takes over. A dropkick gets two for Ziggler and it's off to Show for some pounding. Cole talks about cannonballs and muskets for some reason. Show misses a chop in the corner but Orton's arm goes out. There's the injury.

The referee immediately starts checking on him and we cut to the crowd, presumably to not see the X sign. A tag brings in Sheamus as Orton is looked at on the floor. You can see Cole with his head on his hand so I'm guessing he and JBL are just sitting there, meaning the commentary was done later. Sheamus cleans house but goes up top and jumps into a chokeslam. That's reversed into White Noise for two as Ziggler makes the save, so Orton gives him a very weak looking RK0. Show gets one as well and it's a Brogue Kick for the pin at 12:54 all together, counting the time Booker took to restart the match.

**Rating:** C-. I know these shows are for the live fans, but for the seventeen people that watch Smackdown every week, these pairings are so old it's not even funny anymore. This is where mixing the main event and midcard would work wonders. Do that on Smackdown a bit and then matches like these aren't as bad. The match wasn't bad but the injury slowed things down a lot and you can't hold that against them.

Fergie says hi.

The US Gymnastics Team (there are four here and the team is the Fierce Five) read off a teleprompter about how much they love the troops. Maybe the fifth was fixing the screen.

Gonzo talks to Pepe and Rizzo but the latter two are busy staring at Layla. Eh the Muppets can make anything better.

Flo Rida performs. I see what else is on.

Cena says everything you would expect him to say.

Alberto Del Rio vs. Ryback

Del Rio says we're here for the troops, but today is also Ricardo's birthday. He asks for a chorus of Happy Birthday, but Del Rio sings in Spanish because he's a heel here....I think? Del Rio is slammed down to

start but a Ricardo distraction lets Alberto get in some kicks to the leg. A powerslam puts Del Rio down but Ricardo jumps on Ryback's back for the DQ at 1:30.

Ricardo takes a Shell Shock, as does Del Rio a few seconds later.

Kid Rock performs.

Josh tries to interview Kermit before he's on MizTV. Statler and Waldorf have some insults of course.

Some soldiers TOUT IT OUT!

Time for MizTV with the Muppets. Miz doesn't want to talk about Kermit's new single, but rather he wants to expose him. Miz wants to know the REAL story about what's going on with Kermit and Piggy. To be fair, that's a REALLY good question. Kermit: "For me, it's still don't ask don't tell." Ok point for a funny line. Kermit says he thought Miz was a good guy, but Miz insists he's just awesome instead of a good guy.

The second guess is Miss Piggy. Miz wants to know what the deal is with these two, so Kermit says they're just a frog and a pig who care about each other. This turns into a REALLY battle, so Miz says let's have them get married RIGHT HERE. Damien Sandow interrupts. Kermit: "HALLELUJAH!" Piggy: "WHAT?" Kermit: "Uh I mean....How dare he???"

Sandow makes fun of Miz and says that 78% of the fans have taken the pictures of the Muppets out of their wallets and replaced them with pictures of Sandow. He says that Miz and Piggy are both overrated hams, causing Piggy to go into karate mode. Miz decks Sandow for her.

#### Damien Sandow vs. The Miz

This is joined in progress after the break with the Muppets watching from the stage. Miz pounds away in the corner and we head to the outside. All Miz so far as he high fives some fans. Back in and Damien pounds away before we hit the chinlock. Kermit of course is having his nightly crisis on the stage until Miz comes back with a flapjack. The Reality Check is broken up and Sandow hits a kind of running Blockbuster for two, but Miz counters the pin into a rollup for the pin at 3:30.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing to see here but Kermit freaking out is always funny. I'm a die hard Muppets fan and they've been by far and away the highlight of the show so far. Just fun all around here, albeit with a boring match for the most part. At the end of the day though, if you want Miz to get over, having him defend the Muppets isn't the worst idea in the world.

Piggy kisses Miz post match and he likes it.

The Miami Heat love the troops.

Katie Couric loves the troops.

Flo-Rida performs Wild Ones.

We look back at Tribute to the Troops over the years.

HELL NO is in the back and they need a third man to face 3MB. Bryan has picked Little Jimmy, and Kane likes the idea. Truth comes up and says that Little Jimmy's cousin Ugly Frida is getting married and Little Jimmy has to be there, so it's Truth teaming up with them tonight. After the match is over, they can go to the club or karaoke or kill some spiders.

Kane blames Bryan for this. Bryan: "IT'S NOT MY FAULT! NO! NO! NO!" A voice from off screen says yes, and it's Animal from the Muppets. They shout at each other until Animal calls him Goatface. Bryan turns around and runs into....a talking goat. "Cousin Daniel?" Too funny.

#### HELL NO/R-Truth vs. 3MB

We cut to a shot of the crowd during HELL NO's entrance, apparently because Kane tripped and nearly fell off the stage during his entrance. McIntyre and Truth start things off with nothing going on. Bryan comes in and fires off some kicks in the corner, but HE HAS TIL FIVE. Mahal puts on a chinlock for no significant length of time before it's off to Kane. He cleans house and pounds on Slater, hitting the side slam and top rope clothesline. Everything breaks down and Jinder and Heath break up a double chokeslam. Truth makes a blind tag and there's the chokeslam to Mahal. Little Jimmy pins Slater at 3:27.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing to see here but it wasn't supposed to be anything

major. HELL NO needs some opponents in a hurry, as the division is already falling back into obscurity like it always has been. 3MB needs more character development as they can only be clueless schmucks for so long.

Kid Rock performs Born Free.

Cesaro makes fun of the USA and says Switzerland is better. He gets Cena tonight.

Sam the Eagle salutes Cena.

Some guy from Twilight and Sharon Stone love the troops.

### John Cena vs. Antonio Cesaro

Cesaro doesn't even get an entrance. That should tell you where we're going here. The Muppets introduce Cena, which is completely awesome. Cena pounds him down to start but Cesaro throws him into the corner to take over. They head to the floor with Cena being rammed into the steps. Back in and the gutwrench suplex gets two and here's the comeback. Cena shrugs off everything Cesaro did, hits the Five Moves of Doom and wins with the AA at 5:23.

**Rating:** C. If you don't get why this match happened the way it does, go watch a test pattern. That's more on your intelligence level.

The locker room empties out and Cena gives a speech about how awesome AMERICA is to end the show. Oh wait there's one more thing: some more wrestlers come out dressed as reindeer pulling Santa in a sleigh. I don't recognize Santa this year but the idea is there. Cena throws gifts to the fans and the wrestler walks around high fiving people to really end the show. A closeup of Santa shows that it might (emphasis on that word) have been Johnny Ace.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This didn't work for me. I get that it's supposed to be a special, but that's where it falls short: nothing about this felt special. It felt like a dull Smackdown with a few musical performances thrown in to fill in some time. The being in America part is understandable, but it really takes away a lot of the fun from these

shows. It's not bad, but after this many hours of WWE in the previous three days, it was REALLY hard to get into this show. Not terrible, but this should have been the Christmas Eve Raw. No one is going to watch that anyway, so why waste major stories on it? The Muppets were awesome though.

### Results

Randy Orton/Sheamus b. Dolph Ziggler/Big Show – Brogue Kick to Big Show

Ryback b. Alberto Del Rio via DQ when Ricardo Rodriguez interfered

The Miz b. Damien Sandow – Rollup

HELL NO/R-Truth b. 3MB – Little Jimmy to Slater

John Cena b. Antonio Cesaro – Attitude Adjustment

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# **Tribute to the Troops 2009 – It's Hard Not To Smile At These**

## **Tribute to the Troops 2009**

Date: December 4, 2009

Location: Holt Memorial Stadium, Balad Air Base, Iraq

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

So back in 2003, WWE started doing an annual Christmas show for the troops stationed in Iraq (why did they never go to Afghanistan?). This was an awesome idea and they've run the same idea every year until 2010 when they started having the shows in America so people didn't have to

fly around the world for a few days. I've done a few of these so I figured I'd do the rest of them and since I can't find a full copy of the first one right now, here's the one from 2009. Let's get to it.

Oh and before I forget: not all of the card is televised. There were eight matches on the card but only three aired on the broadcast. That would be changed I think next year. Lawler and Cole did commentary on tape from Connecticut later on.

One other note: the matches here are going to be lower quality than usual and there is nothing wrong with that. I'm going to be very lenient with my ratings on this show because the wrestling isn't for the TV audience here.

The opening video talks about the USO's history of taking care of the troops in combat.

#### Rey Mysterio/Mark Henry vs. CM Punk/Carlito

The arena is unlike anything you'll ever see. It's outside and everyone is in camouflage. Punk and Rey start things off in a feeling out process. They go to a test of strength with Punk easily putting Rey on the mat. Rey fights up but can't hit the 619. Punk does the Hogan muscle pose so Rey tags in Henry. Mark runs him over a few times and drops him out of a gorilla press position. We get the Andre/Snuka splash but Carlito makes the save. Rey hits a double 619, followed by a World's Strongest Slam on Carlito and a springboard splash to Punk for the stereo pins. Carlito was never in and this was a squash.

We get photos of the WWE guys and Divas visiting troops set to a Bob Dylan song.

Here's Eve Torres to introduce R-Santa who introduces the Bellas, Layla, Alicia and Kelly in sexy Santa outfits to give gifts to the crowd.

Barack Obama thanks the troops for doing this.

More troop visits, including Morrison and Eve singing We Wish You A Merry Christmas. This runs for a LONG time but it's just wrestlers shaking hands with soldiers.

General David Petraeus thanks us some more and we hear about all the cool stuff the troops do in Iraq.

### The Miz vs. John Morrison

Miz is US Champion and Morrison is IC Champion, although he's lost the title to Drew McIntyre since the show was taped. Morrison hits a fast dropkick to take over and get two as Cole talks about some commander who missed the show so he didn't miss his anniversary for the seventh straight year. Smart man. Miz sidesteps Morrison to send him to the floor and the fans are all over Mikey. Back in and Miz goes up and gets crotched, giving Morrison a superplex for two. Starship Pain misses and Miz rolls him up for the pin with his feet on the ropes. Another short match but that's fine.

We get a speech from Cena from after the match that's up next. He talks about how he's been here six years now and everyone knows how he feels about the troops. We get a highlight package set to Never Gonna Be Alone by Nickelback.

### Raw World Title: John Cena vs. Chris Jericho

Cena is defending even though he already lost the title to Sheamus at TLC. Jericho would be a tag champion here (no belt for some reason) but he also lost at TLC. Bad show for champions that. We get some abbreviated big match intros and it's time to go. Jericho immediately takes him into the corner and pounds away but Cena comes back with a release fisherman's suplex for no cover.



Jericho gets in a kick to the face to knock Cena to the floor for the springboard dropkick. We take a break (with more videos of the soldiers) and come back with Jericho putting on the Walls. Cena finally rolls through into the STF but Jericho grabs the rope. While the hold is on we cut to a shot of the crowd and you see a fighter jet flying through the shot. That's awesome.

Cole thanks the staff here and apparently one of the big shots is named Ned Flanders. I played that back to see if it was right and that's the exact name he says. Jericho tries an AA off the middle rope but Jericho headbutts him down. Jericho tries a middle rope cross body but Cena rolls through into the AA to retain.

**Rating:** C. This was fine even though we barely saw most of the match. Jericho never beating Cena is almost a running joke at this point but I don't think it was ever brought up. This was a very quick match which apparently ran less than eight minutes in full. To be fair though it's like 100 degrees so the lack of endurance is acceptable.

A three minute highlight package of the while trip ends the show.

**Overall Rating:** N/A. I know that's kind of cheap but we had one rateable match and a ton of the show was just clips of the guys with the troops. Still though, what in the world do you want me to say? This is about a special Christmas show and giving the troops who get shot at every day something fun. The full show versions of this we would get starting next year would be much easier to grade. It's really hard to not smile when you watch one of these though.

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# Tribute to the Troops 2011 – Not Too Bad

## Tribute to the Troops 2011

Date: December 13, 2011

Location: Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

This is the show that is now a tradition and is still pretty awesome. We're still stateside for this and it's probably a lot easier that way. The matches here don't mean anything and that's fine. This is about the people in the audience and that's fine. This was taped Sunday night so don't expect any references to last night. Let's get to it.

We're in an arena this year.

The President gives his usual message about this show.

## Randy Orton vs. Wade Barrett

Pretty big match to start things off with. Orton takes over to start and we get a Slammys reference. Maybe the commentary was recorded later? Barrett pounds him down to take over and a big boot puts Randy on the apron and gets two back in the ring. Pumphandle slam gets two. Barrett goes up and Orton gets in a set of punches and a superplex for two. Here's the comeback and it starts with the powerslam. Elevated DDT is countered and they go to the outside. The DDT on the floor is countered and they brawl to a double countout at 5:57.

**Rating:** C-. I'm going to be a lot lighter on the ratings tonight because the winning and losing isn't the point. This is about the fans having a good time and they couldn't have one guy go over cleanly here. They didn't have a lot of options so there's nothing wrong with what they did here. Decent match too.

Barrett beats Orton up post match and loads up a table. Orton gets in a dropkick and sets up the table. Otunga of all people runs out for the save and he beats on Randy for a bit. There's an RK0 for him and he goes through the table via a big powerbomb.

Nicole Kidman loves the troops. My goodness she's beautiful.

Jake Gyllenhall loves the troops.

Barrett says he has the psychological advantage over Orton. The only voice Orton will hear is a table breaking in half.

Nickelback performs Burn it the the Ground. Awesome song live.

A group of superstars jump out of a plane, which is what the specialty unit at Fort Bragg does.

#### Jack Swagger vs. Zack Ryder

Ryder brings out Sgt. Slaughter to counteract Zigler. Ryder hits a middle rope dropkick for two. Swagger comes back with a powerslam for two but Zack pops off some punches. This isn't going to last long. There's the Broski Boot but the Rough Ryder is countered. Ryder is sent to the floor and Zigler gets in a shot. Slaughter hits the Slaughter Cannon to put him over the announce table. Swagger beats down Sarge and steals the Ryder headband he was wearing. Back inside the Vader Bomb misses and the Rough Ryder ends this at 3:45.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing to see here but Slaughter being brought in was the right idea. He's a character that it's impossible to not like a little bit and for a patriotic show, you really can't go wrong with him. This was short and there's not much wrong with that. Although I'd question an AMERICAN character being a heel here.

Slaughter puts on the Cobra Clutch post match.

Hugh Jackman loves the troops.

The Bellas visit West Point.

### Bella Twins/Natalya/Beth Phoenix vs. Eve Torres/Kelly Kelly/Alicia Fox/Maria Menounos

Maria is the host of I think Extra. She was a guest host of Raw a few years ago. Eve vs. a Bella starts us off but it's off to Maria quickly. Off to Eve with the other Bella quickly and the standing moonsault gets two. Beth comes in but gets caught by an enziguri. Kelly comes in and everything breaks down with one from each side having the upper hand for about 3 seconds. Maria comes in against Beth and gets a pin off a sunset flip. This was what it was.

The Muppets love the troops and show more personality than other celebrities combined.

Celine Dion loves the troops.

George Wallace, a comedian, does a brief routine.

Video on Nash vs. HHH.

Booker joins in on commentary.

### Daniel Bryan vs. Cody Rhodes

Bryan's ribs are still taped. Rhodes goes straight for them, dropping the ribs onto the corner and taking over quickly. Off to a surfboard and Rhodes stomps him down in the corner. The commentary is all about Booker and Cole, which is a bit more understandable due to Booker facing Rhodes on Sunday. A clothesline puts Cody on the floor but Bryan jumps into a kick to the ribs. Booker checks on Bryan and pops Cody in the jaw, allowing Bryan to get a rollup in the ring for the pin at 4:35.

**Rating:** C-. Intense match while it lasted and it sets up Booker vs. Cody even better for Sunday. I'm actually looking forward to that match which really surprises me. I don't think

Booker will win the title but it should be an entertaining match at least as Booker is almost always watchable. This was just for the ending and that's fine.

Booker beats on Cody a bit post match and there's a Spinarooni  
Carson Daly loves the troops.

Mary J. Blige performs.

Air Boom runs into Miss USA and does the Boom Boom Boom.

Robin Williams loves the troops.

The Dancing with the Stars winner, a veteran, says the troops are cool. He judges some of the wrestlers dancing. They're videos of guys in the past and Eve gets the high score despite having nothing on Layla. Granted she didn't have a video in this.

Hornswoggle does the announcing for this.

### Air Boom vs. Primo/Epico

Rosa is with the non-champions and she's still gorgeous. Kofi vs. Epico to get us started. Epico and Primo are real life cousins. Off to Bourne very quickly and he does his usual high flying stuff to fire the crowd up. Epico takes over and works on the back of Kofi but there's a tag to Bourne who comes in with a rana. Everything breaks down and a Backstabber by Epico ends Bourne at 2:59. I guess there are your next champions.

Matthew McConaughey loves the troops.

Nickelback performs again. This time it's a new song called When We Stand Together.

Christina Aguilera loves the troops.

Here's Christian looking like he fell out of a building. He's in agony but is here to celebrate the Canadian Army. Cue

Sheamus to glare at him.

### Sheamus vs. Drew McIntyre

Drew actually comes out second and gets a full entrance. Sheamus beats him up but can't get the Celtic Cross. Drew gets in a few shots but Sheamus remembers he's Sheamus and he's fighting Drew McIntyre so he takes Drew down and a Brogue Kick ends this at 2:15.

Jimmy Fallon loves the troops.

Regis Philbin loves the troops.

Mary J. Blige performs again.

Bradley Cooper loves the troops.

### Alberto Del Rio/The Miz/Mark Henry vs. John Cena/CM Punk/Big Show

Punk vs. Miz to start us off. Off to Cena who gets a bit reaction. He and Punk do some nice double team stuff and Punk messes up a bit and covers Miz at the same time Cena does. I think he legit forgot he wasn't legal. Not a big deal but kind of funny. Off to Show who hits one of the hardest sounding chops I've ever heard. Del Rio comes in very slowly. Henry comes in about four seconds later and here's the big showdown.

Henry gets the better of it and slams Show for two. The heels take turns beating on Show and Henry comes back in for a bearhug. Show fights out of it and hits a superkick. Double clothesline and both guys are down. Off to Miz vs. Punk with the champion taking over. Punk and Show do the Snuka/Andre move for the elbow to set up the Anaconda Vice but Del Rio comes in for the save.

Punk fights off Henry and here's your real hot tag to Cena. He hits the suplex on Henry and I guess it must be the camo that makes no one able to see him. Everything breaks down and we

get the usual ending to this show where all of the faces hit their finishers for the pin, with Cena hitting the AA on Henry to officially end it at 9:20.

**Rating:** C. This is the standard finish for this show and that's just fine. This is about giving the troops something cool to end things and they did that just fine. Cena, the military themed guy, ending things with a huge power move is perfectly acceptable. This was about exactly what you would have expected and that's all it needed to be. Fine ending.

Cena thanks the roster (which is all on the stage) and all of the troops for what they do. Nothing wrong with that.

**Overall Rating:** C+. I didn't get into this one as much as I have in previous years. It just didn't feel the same as it does when it's outdoors. This felt more like a big commercial for TLC, which is understandable, but it didn't quite click like most of the shows usually do. Still though, it's fine for what it was and it's not supposed to be anything serious. Not bad, but they've done it better.

### Results

Randy Orton vs. Wade Barrett went to a double countout

Zack Ryder b. Jack Swagger – Rough Ryder

Maria Menounos/Eve Torres/Kelly Kelly/Alicia Fox b. Bella Twins/Natalya/Beth Phoenix – Sunset flip to Phoenix

Daniel Bryan b. Cody Rhodes – Rollup

Epico/Primo b. Air Boom – Backstabber to Bourne

Sheamus b. Drew McIntyre – Brogue Kick

John Cena/CM Punk/Big Show b. Alberto Del Rio/The Miz/Mark Henry – AA to Henry

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# Tribute to the Troops 2010

## Tribute to the Troops 2010

Date: December 22, 2010

Location: Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

It's the annual tradition and in this case it's the two hour version rather than the one hour one that was shown on Saturday. In other words, I know half of the show but not the rest of it, which I'll throw in if I can. There isn't much to say about it but so far it's the best one they've done. Let's get to it.

Expect a lot of "so and so says thanks to the troops" and "so and so performs" tonight.

We open with a clip of President Obama thanking the troops for what they're doing. He doesn't actually mention WWE but the idea is there I guess.

We get a quick set of shots of WWE being there for the troops for years.

## Battle Royal

Mark Henry, John Morrison, Ezekiel Jackson, Sheamus, Daniel Bryan, Chris Masters, Cody Rhodes, Vladimir Kozlov, Santino Marella, Michael McGillicutty, Husky Harris, Justin Gabriel,



David Otunga, Heath Slater, Chavo Guerrero

The commentary is different here as they're referencing TLC having already happened which hadn't happened when this first aired. This wasn't on the first show. They're getting some big names in there at least. Fifteen guys in there if you don't want to count. Everyone surrounds Nexus and the beating is on. They're all run off but not over the top rope so I guess they're still in?

Sheamus puts out Masters but can't get rid of Bryan. Nexus is chilling out maxing relaxing all cool and all watching some wrestling out by the ring. Chavo dumps Jackson which surprises me a bit so the ring is kind of empty without Nexus in there. Cobra to everyone and it works on them all, cleaning the ring. And then he goes after Sheamus like an idiot.

Sheamus and Henry have a standoff but HERE THEY COME! I haven't gotten to write that in a long time. Everyone is still down from the Cobra of all things. The tag champions go out as Nexus is cleaning house. Chavo and Cody are out, leaving Morrison, Bryan, Sheamus and Henry against the black and yellow dudes. They charge with Sheamus chilling in the corner.

Bryan beats up the Wendy's chick/dude but everyone else has it 2-1. Gabriel vs. Bryan makes the IWC orgasm just a bit but Bryan gets rid of Gabriel. Sheamus kicks Bryan's head off though and dumps him with ease. Harris takes down Sheamus and the beatdown is on. There goes Otunga as Morrison is doing most of the fighting. Sheamus and Morrison start fighting but Morrison is finally put out by Nexus.

And then Henry awakens, throwing Slater over to leave him, McGillicutty, Harris and Sheamus. Henry beats the tar out of the Nexus guys and throws out Hennig's son. There goes IRS'

son as well, leaving us with Henry vs. Sheamus. The very white guy beats down Henry for a bit until the POWER OF TEXAS wakes Henry up. In a very impressive display of strength, Henry gorilla presses Sheamus over the top with relative ease. That was scary.

**Rating:** B-. Battle royals are really hard to grade but this one definitely was good stuff. Nexus trying to be all sneaky fit really well and having the hometown guy winning was a good thing to do here. It's not like it changes anything so I can't complain here at all. Better battle royal than most for sure.

Taylor Swift loves the troops.

The Bellas love the troops and are very hot.

Diddy Dirty Money performs I'll Be Missing You.

After a break, Miss USA is introducing the next match.

Kofi Kingston/Big Show vs. Jack Swagger/Dolph Ziggler

No Vickie this time. This was on the first show. Dolph vs. Show to start us off here. Show stands on his ribs and I think the champion is about to cry. Kofi in now and he and Ziggler do their usual good stuff. King talks about the morale people and gets in a Craig Pittman line: beatings will continue until morale improves.

After Swagger interferes a bit, Kofi gets a SLICK counter of the Fameasser into a powerbomb. Semi-hot tag to Show who gets a sidekick to take down Swagger. He cleans house and Ziggler is thrown into the air. Kofi gets a cross body to put both he and Ziggler on the floor. The chokeslam to Swagger ends this totally clean.

**Rating:** C. This was fine. It wasn't anywhere close to the

regular tag matches they've been having on Smackdown lately but that's not the point. This was about giving the fans a quick thrill and having Show out there winning is always good as he's freaking huge which is a treat for the fans. Nothing great, but this was fine.

Trace Adkins performs.

#### R-Truth vs. Ted DiBiase

Not on the first show. Truth jumps him to start as this is looking one sided so far. This is probably Truth's last TV appearance for a long while given his recent health issues. Both guys go down off a double clothesline as I think this is going to go fast. Maryse gets on the apron, Eve pulls her down, Dream Street is countered, Axe Kick ends it. This was nothing.

#### Bella Twins/Natalya/Kelly Kelly vs. Alicia Fox/Melina/Laycool

Not on the first show either. Yep the evil ones are definitely hotter. They're all in Santa outfits of course. Alicia vs. a Bella starts us off and Cole thinks it's Nikki. Since Cole is a very stupid man we'll call her Brie. Melina is working as a heel here to play up the whole turn on Raw two days ago. Kelly comes in and we get the headscissors to show off the underwear under her skirt. She beats the tar out of Michelle before Layla saves. Everyone gets in until Kelly hits K2 to beat Michelle. Another nothing match.

The cast of 30 Rock loves the troops.

Back from a break we see Sherri Sheppard throwing shirts and DVDs out to the troops earlier along with Horny.

George W. Bush thanks the troops.

Diddy Dirty Money performs Coming Home which makes sense at least. The chorus of that is actually pretty awesome.

Lindsay Vonn (Olympic skier) loves the troops.

We get an arm wrestling contest between the commander of the base who is rather wrinkly and he gets....Kane. Oh dear. The commander whose name is Grimsley gives Kane a chance to back out. Grimsley gets an advantage early on but here comes Kane. The soldiers are of course behind their boss. Edge's music hits and the distraction lets the General get the win. Nicely done. Spear puts Kane on the floor and Edge shakes the General's hand. Not on the original show.

Earlier today Cedric the Entertainer came out and did a short routine. It looked like they clipped a bit of it so maybe it was longer. That would make some more sense.

Jimmy Fallon loves the troops. He tells some horrible jokes until Miz pops up behind him and slams him to a big pop. Funny stuff.

Adkins performs Whup a Man. There's a line in there that says something about you should whip a man if he cusses out a kid. After the song his 9 year old daughter comes out and it's supposed to be a big emotional moment. Bit contradictory there isn't it? The second of each performances were on the Saturday show.

The military chief of staff says basic stuff.

John Cena/Rey Mysterio/Randy Orton vs. Alberto Del Rio/Wade Barrett/The Miz

Del Rio has the whole car thing here. This was on the Saturday show too. ERUPTION for Cena. Before we go to break, the cast of the Today Show loves the troops. Miz vs. Cena to start which I have a feeling might be Wrestlemania. Off the

Barrett and Orton and you can feel the interesting part of the show dying away almost instantly with those two fighting. Orton gets the elevated DDT to take over but can't get the RK0.

Rey comes in and things speed up as he hits a Seated Senton to Miz for two. Riley hooks Rey's foot though and here come the evildoers as we take a break. Back with Barrett hitting a backbreaker on Rey for two. Off to Alberto who tries a sunset flip and gets kicked in the head. Again, that always works if you just give it a try. Rey reverses a top rope suplex and gets a top rope cross body.

Hot tag to Cena and Alberto no puede ver Cena. Everything falls apart and Orton gets the Angle Slam to Miz. Riley pulls him out before the RK0 can hit. Barrett takes a backbreaker and it's 1238 time to Alberto and Barrett. FU to Del Rio and RK0 to Barrett with Del Rio getting pinned to end this.

**Rating:** C. This was what it was. There's nothing special about it at all and there isn't supposed to be. As King says, this is about putting smiles on the faces of the troops. There was nothing special here but there wasn't supposed to be. The ending was IDENTICAL to the ending of the 2008 show which was kind of cool. Nothing terrible at all and it did its job.

**Overall Rating:** A. This was by far the best of these shows ever as it felt like a combination of a USO show and the Tribute to the Troops. It was fun and the two hours flew by to say the least. The wrestling isn't the point here but it certainly worked. Very fun show to say the least and it definitely did its job very well. Very good show to cap off a very good week for WWE.