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CONTACT: Corey Blake
corey@writersoftheroundtable.com
224-475-0392

**LOCAL AUTHOR AND CHILDHOOD ILLNESS SURVIVOR ALESIA SHUTE TO KEYNOTE AT ARMC
MAINLAND AUXILIARY'S PIKE-A-THON SATURDAY, SEPT. 26**

Shute to speak about her inspiring story and battle against catastrophic illness and to sign copies of her new memoir

SWEETWATER, N.J. (Sept. 1, 2009) – Sharing her story of survival that details her battle and recovery from catastrophic illness as a child as well as her struggles through school, boys, marriage, pregnancy, and business, former Sweetwater casino owner Alesia Shute will be the keynote speaker at the ARMC Mainland Auxiliary's Pike-A-Thon dinner Saturday, Sept. 26. The day-long fundraiser will raise monies for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center. In addition to delivering an inspiring keynote address, Shute will also be a part of the day's fundraising events, signing copies of her new memoir, ["Everything's Okay"](#) (Escalation Publishing, August 2009), throughout the day.

"Writing fiction with imagined hurdles to overcome is one thing; writing a truthful account of the realities is quite another," said Carl T. Smith, author of "Lowcountry Boil," "Nothin' Left to Lose" and "Louisiana Burn." "Alesia Shute has captured the pain of an uncertain life that is always on the edge of collapsing and what it takes to survive tragedies not of our own making."

Born in Philadelphia, Shute, now 47, was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis at age seven and treated by former Surgeon General of the United States and Surgeon-in-Chief at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Dr. C. Everett Koop. After surviving six major and several minor surgeries as a child, plus countless hours of pain and months in the hospital, Shute went on to marry her husband of 26 years, Cliff, own and operate several popular nightclubs and restaurants, and help raise her husband's daughter and their son.

"My hope is that I can provide courage and inspiration to those who are going through what I went through as a child, whether it's a child battling with a disease or a parent trying to understand what is happening inside their child's body," said Shute. "Sometimes I look at my childhood as a dream and don't believe that it was really me who went through all that I did. Writing this book as an adult has allowed me to reflect on the fact that what happened to me as a child is clearly why I am the person that I am today. I am actually grateful for life's struggles because it allows me to make conscious decisions about everything I do today."

In addition to sharing her story at 6 p.m. at Christina's Restaurant and Bar and the Vienna Inn, Shute will sign copies of her book at various event venues including Billy's Oak Grove, 5322 White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor City from 1 – 2:15 p.m. and at Christina's Restaurant/Vienna Inn, 920 W. White Horse Pike, Galloway, from 2:30 – 4 p.m.

"Everything's Okay" has been well-received in the community at various book signings and events as well.

For more details about Shute's story and the book signings, or to request a copy of the book for review, visit www.everythingsokaybook.com or contact Shute's Publisher Corey Blake, president of Writers of the Round Table Press and Escalation Publishing, at corey@writersoftheroundtable.com, 224.475.0392.

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