



TODAY/THURS., JUNE 14 IS FLAG DAY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Laura Soll (860) 688-4499, cell (860) 833-4466, laura@sollpr.com

**JUNE 14 FLAG DAY KICKS OFF CALL FOR MARCHERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS
FOR NEW ENGLAND'S LARGEST VETERANS DAY PARADE – IN HARTFORD**

Two Honorary Grand Marshals Named – Anthony V. Savino and Carmen Anthony Vacalebri

HARTFORD, CONN., June 14, 2007– **Today, on our nation's "Flag Day"**, organizers of **New England's largest Veterans Day Parade kick off the call for participants, volunteers and sponsors**, and announce **two of the 2007 Honorary Grand Marshals: Anthony V. Savino of Bristol, Conn. and Carmen Anthony Vacalebri of Waterbury, Conn.**

The eighth annual "**Connecticut Veterans Day Parade**" will be held in Hartford, Conn. on **Sunday, November 4** and veterans can sign up now to march or ride in the procession. The procession will start at 1 p.m. and last approximately two hours.

Any Connecticut resident who is an active, retired or honorably discharged member of the U.S. Armed Forces including commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves is welcome to march. Parade organizers also seek veterans groups, patriotic commissions, local municipalities, and middle, high school, college and university marching bands and drill teams from throughout the state.

The Connecticut Veterans Day Parade is organized by a collaboration of veterans' groups, corporations, local municipalities, businesses and civic organizations, and is administered by the Greater Hartford Arts Council. The Connecticut National Guard manages all parade logistics, and the City of Hartford hosts the event. Last year, close to 3,500 veterans from all over Connecticut took part in the parade, with tens of thousands of spectators cheering them on.

"The Connecticut Veterans Day Parade offers everyone an opportunity to honor the dedication and sacrifice of our brave servicemen and women from ALL U.S. conflicts, and to say, 'Thank you,'" explains Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications for the State of Connecticut National Guard. "This year, with hundreds of Connecticut-based troops returning home from *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, with the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, the 65th anniversary of World War II's Battle of Midway, the 55th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, and the 25th anniversary of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial, this parade promises to be extremely poignant and memorable."

-More-

KICK OFF OF CALL FOR CONNECTICUT VETERANS DAY PARADE MARCHERS...Page 2

Anthony V. Savino and Carmen Anthony Vacalebri are the first two Honorary Grand Marshals named for this year's parade. Organizers will announce the Parade Grand Marshal and other Honorary Grand Marshals this summer.

Mr. Savino served on active duty with the U.S. Army and Connecticut Army National Guard for 40 years, serving as the State Command Sergeant Major of the Connecticut National Guard for his last 16 years. During his military service and since his retirement, the Bristol, Conn. resident has been an active volunteer in his community on numerous boards, commissions, and veterans committees, including service on the Bristol City Council. Mr. Savino was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in 2006 by Gov. M. Jodi Rell.

Mr. Vacalebri has been a vital force in securing community contributions for the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade, ensuring that it can continue to honor U.S. servicemen and servicewomen. Last year, when parade organizers needed new funds to produce the event, the Owner/CEO of Carmen Anthony Restaurant Group and Waterbury resident not only stepped forward with his own generous donation, he solicited sizable support from his friends and business associates as well. A Director of the National Restaurant Association, he is active in many Connecticut civic and business organizations.

The 1.26-mile parade will begin near the Connecticut State Capitol at the intersection of Buckingham St. and Washington St., travel north down Trinity Street and through the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, go right onto Asylum Street, and make a right onto Main Street where it will pass a reviewing stand across from the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, and finally make a right onto Capitol Avenue where it will end. Special features of the 2007 parade will include fly-overs by military aircraft, and a tolling of church bells and Moment of Silence when the parade will pause in observance of veterans who died while serving their country.

This parade is made possible by funding from **Title Sponsors who include:** Aetna; Connecticut Light & Power; the Connecticut National Guard; The Hartford Courant; Hartford Steam Boiler; The Travelers Companies; United Technologies; and WDRC Radio. **Associate Sponsors of the parade include:** Bank of America; Greater Hartford Arts Council; and Kaman Corporation. **The parade is produced in cooperation with:** Bob's Discount Furniture; the City of Hartford; the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs; Pratt & Whitney; the State of Connecticut; and the Exchange Club of Rockville. **In Kind Sponsors include:** Monaco Ford; Mr. Trophy; R2 Graphics; and United Paint & Wallpaper. Additional sponsors are being sought to help pay for the event.

All veterans groups and individual veterans; patriotic commissions; municipalities; and middle, high school, college and university marching bands and drill teams that want to march in the Sunday; November 4 "Connecticut Veterans Day Parade" should visit www.ctveteransdayparade.org or call the Parade Information Line at (860) 724-2649 ext. 23. People who want to volunteer to help at the event can register there as well.

-End-