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Flyover Scheduled for Patriot Day Parade

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, August 15, 2007 – The 4th Annual Grand Rapids Jaycees Patriot Day Parade will start off with a roar on Saturday, Sept. 8, as two A-10 Warthogs from the 110th Fighter Wing at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base are scheduled to fly over the parade route. The parade, which will start at 10:15 a.m., has a new route that will begin on the corner of Division Avenue and Crescent Street, traveling south on Division Avenue to Fulton Street before turning east on Fulton Street and finishing at Veterans Memorial Park. A brief Memorial Service to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and in service to their country and communities will be held at Veterans Memorial Park immediately following the parade. The theme for this year's parade is "Home of the Brave" and the Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines will serve as Grand Marshals.

The A-10 Thunderbolt II, nicknamed the "Warthog," is specially designed for close air support of ground forces. "We are honored that the 110th Fighter Wing has volunteered to perform the flyover for this year's parade," said Jaycee Parade Chair Amy Howell. "Hopefully we'll have better weather for them this year." The 110th Fighter Wing's scheduled flyover at last year's parade was cancelled due to inclement weather. The unit last performed a flyover at the Patriot Day Parade in 2004.

The Patriot Day Parade, which has been organized and operated by the Grand Rapids Jaycees since 2004, seeks to honor community heroes and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Entries for the parade will be accepted until Aug. 31. Additional information about the parade is available on the Grand Rapids Jaycees website at www.grjaycees.org or by calling 616-780-1220.

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The Grand Rapids Jaycees, also known as the Grand Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce, is an organization that provides young people between the ages of 21-40 with opportunities to meet new people, network for business, build their personal and professional skills and help the community. The Grand Rapids Jaycees organize a number of community events such as the Santa Claus Parade, Children's Holiday Shopping Tour and the Michigan Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament.