



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Help Needed to Fill Banks at Patriot Day Parade

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, August 27, 2007 – The Grand Rapids Jaycees are seeking the community’s help in filling local food and blood banks at the Patriot Day Parade on Saturday, Sept. 8. The Grand Rapids Jaycees will be collecting non-perishable food items for the ACCESS of West Michigan’s Food Pantry Program from 8:30 a.m. until the end of the parade at Veterans Memorial Park. The Michigan Community Blood Centers’ Bloodmobile will also be on hand on Sheldon Street next to Veterans Memorial Park for the “Be a Hero” Blood Drive, which will be held 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Key Volunteers of the Alpha Company 1/24 Marines will also be selling military branch and American flags for \$5.00 before and during the parade at Veterans Memorial Park to raise funds for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball which will be held in November.

Pre-Parade Activities will run from 8:30 a.m. until the start of the parade at Veterans Memorial Park and will feature appearances from local mascots, children’s activities provided by Soccer-Zone, and the Voice of Animals Rescue Group. Parade goers will also get the chance to send a message of support to troops at The West Michigan Military Family Support Group’s “Operation Pillow Talk” tent. The group sends new pillows decorated with messages of support to overseas troops who are not generally issued pillows.

Approximately 50 entries are scheduled to participate in the Patriot Day Parade, which will start at 10:15 a.m. with a flyover from two A-10 jets from the 110th Fighter Wing at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.

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This year's parade 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 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 Special Olympics of Michigan State Basketball Tournament.