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For immediate release



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MEDIA CONTACT:
Crystal Flanders-Moore,
Southeastern NC Community Liaison
910-264-9560
southeastern@RibbonsToReality.org

Citizen-Soldier Support Program and City of Wilmington Declare Military Family Appreciation Day

WILMINGTON, NC – Wilmington Mayor Spence H. Broadhurst, in conjunction with the City of Wilmington and the Citizen-Soldier Support Program (CSSP), will proclaim Military Family Appreciation Day during this week's city council meeting on Tuesday (Aug. 16). The day, to be recognized on Aug. 27, encourages Wilmington to acknowledge the sacrifices of military families.

"The City of Wilmington is proud to support and honor its military families," said Broadhurst. "We proclaim August 27th as Military Family Appreciation Day to extend our gratitude for the sacrifices these soldiers and their families make daily to defend and preserve our freedom. Wilmington is excited to have the opportunity to work with the Citizen-Soldier Support Program to help strengthen and show support for our local soldiers and their families."

The Citizen-Soldier Support Program (CSSP) is a community-based initiative aimed at mobilizing community organizations and services to support and strengthen local citizen soldiers, their families and loved ones.

About 820 members of the National Guard and Reserve are from the Wilmington area, along with another 1,400 immediate family members and 3,700 extended family members. Such citizen-soldier families, unlike those of active military personnel who live on or near a military post, do not have an established military support structure. That is why Wilmington was selected by CSSP in the program's inaugural year as a focus area to engage local community support for these families.

"The response from southeastern North Carolinians since the program's launch in March has been overwhelming," said Crystal Moore, CSSP Community Liaison for the southeastern region of North Carolina. The program is active in New Hanover County, making connections for citizen soldiers with local community organizations such as civic organizations, libraries, local businesses, schools and faith communities.

Other program community liaisons are located in Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro and Rocky Mount. The program also assembles specialists in areas such as childcare, schools, recreation facilities, libraries, cooperative extension, public and non-profit agencies, faith communities and civic leadership to develop and foster strategies that augment the program's community efforts.

The federally funded Citizen-Soldier Support Program is being spearheaded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in partnership with Duke University, N.C. State, UNC-Charlotte, East Carolina, UNC-Greensboro, Virginia Tech, Bryn Mawr College and UNC-TV.

Note:

Meeting Location: Wilmington City Hall, 102 North Third St., at 6 p.m.

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