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## ***Mayor Fulop: Jersey City to Host Its First Veterans' Day Parade Ever***

***“A Parade of Veterans and Heroes,” Will Feature Several Hundred Participants, Including Veterans, Active Duty Military, Public Safety Personnel, Marching Bands, Floats and Military Vehicles; Event is Part of Fulop Administration’s Focus on Providing Services and Programming for Veterans***

**JERSEY CITY – This Sunday, November 8, for the first time in its history, Jersey City will hold a parade in honor of Veterans Day.**

While the City used to hold events commemorating Memorial Day in the first half of the 1900s, research from the Jersey City Public Library and local historians finds that never in Jersey City’s history has a parade commemorating Veterans Day been held. Instead residents and veterans would attend parades in New York City, Newark and Hoboken.

“I’ve always said that I got more out of the Marines as a human being than the Marines got out of me,” said **Mayor Fulop**, who served in the Marine’s 6<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion during the early days of the Iraq War. “Our armed forces – and everyone who has served or still serves in them – deserve to be honored in the communities in which they live. I couldn’t be prouder to begin a new tradition this weekend.”

Both Mayor Fulop and U.S. Senator Robert Menendez are scheduled to participate in the parade, ***“A Parade of Veterans and Heroes.”***

The parade will kick off at City Hall at 10 a.m. and will proceed to the Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery where a program featuring speeches and musical performances will be held. A 21-gun salute by the Jersey City Police Department will be a parade highlight, as well as a wreath laying ceremony and flag blessing at the cemetery following the parade. Another parade highlight will be the contingent of South Vietnamese soldiers who fought alongside the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

“Of course, the parade is not the only way Jersey City is honoring our veterans – or even the most important way,” added Fulop, “We have to do everything in our power to make sure that those who’ve served – and have slept in a barracks or under a tent or the open sky – have a roof over their head when they come back home.”

The Fulop administration has made assisting veterans a focal point, with Mayor Fulop pledging to end veteran homelessness in the city. His administration has broken ground on two veterans affordable housing projects, and has also allocated half a million dollars to the United Way from the city’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund for additional affordable housing for veterans. During the Fulop Administration, CarePoint Health also

expanded health services for veterans so they can receive care locally. The Mayor has also expanded services within the Resident Response Center and the Office of Veterans Affairs. In addition, he has worked with the organization *Helmets to Hardhats* to expand veteran hiring on construction sites.

Sunday's parade will include veterans, current active duty military members, public safety personnel, high school marching bands, and numerous floats and military vehicles. Other participants include: Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey, a statewide organization that helps veterans assimilate back into civilian life, as well as the national organization of Team Red White and Blue that connects veterans through physical and social activities such as marathons and 5Ks. Active duty military personnel will be attending from the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

### **WHERE TO WATCH:**

Spectator stations will be located along the parade route at the following locations:

- Christopher Columbus Drive between Grove and Barrow (behind Porta Restaurant)
- Newark Avenue at First Street (near Port-O Lounge)
- Newark Avenue at Monmouth Street (near Gia's Gelato & Café)
- Newark Avenue at Division Street (near Healy's Tavern)
- Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery, 435 Newark Avenue

### **ABOUT VETERANS DAY**

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11th became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Veterans Day is often confused with Memorial Day which honors American service members who died in service to their country, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans – living or dead – with special thanks to those living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

### **ABOUT OUR ARMED FORCES**

The **United States Armed Forces** consist of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, and serve through the Federal Department of Defense. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2014, there are **21.8 million veterans** of the U.S. armed forces, approximately 10 percent of whom are women. In all the American wars there have been **651,008** battle deaths and about 1.2 million deaths during service in wartime, with approximately 42 million people having served in the military during wartime. As of Dec. 31, 2013, there were **1,369,532 members of the armed forces on active duty**, with an additional **850,880** people in the seven reserve components.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at [jenniferm@jcnj.org](mailto:jenniferm@jcnj.org) or 201-376-0699.////**