

## **Mayor of East Haven Pays Tribute to Military Service Past and Present**

Mayor April Capone Almon announced two events in the Town of East Haven to honor those who have served our country past and present. The first event, to take place September 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the auditorium of East Haven High School, 35 Wheelbarrow Lane, East Haven, will be the signing of the Community Covenant in support of the United States Army. Mayor Capone Almon will be joined by the Mayors and Selectmen of New Haven, West Haven, North Haven and Branford to affirm their support for soldiers and families of the active duty Army, Army Reserve and the National Guard.

The program was an initiative of Army Secretary Pete Geren in 2008 to invite communities across America to demonstrate their commitment to the Army's all-volunteer force.

The impetus for the public ceremony occurring September 10 was the desire of East Haven Mayor April Capone Almon to reaffirm her community's support for local soldiers and their families. The Mayor went on to explain "My office has been fortunate to become a resource for Army personnel in our community. It is an honor and a privilege to assist these soldiers and their families and help make them at home while they serve our country."

Mayor Almon then enlisted the support of like-minded leaders in nearby communities to create the multi-community event that she is hosting on Sept. 10. Expected VIP attendance includes Mr. Gil Sanborn, Connecticut's Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, and Connecticut Ambassador to the Army Reserve, Mr. Carl Venditto. The formal proceedings will last approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by opportunities for interviews and photos. The public is welcome to attend this free event.

The second event honoring our military this month will be held on September 30, at 5:30pm, also in the auditorium of East Haven High School, 35 Wheelbarrow Lane, East Haven. This ceremony will be hosted by Mayor Capone Almon in conjunction with the Secretary of State Susan

Bysiewicz and is set to honor East Haven's World War II veterans. The Public Service Award will be presented by the Secretary of State and Mayor to each veteran in recognition of their service during the Second World War.

“After summoning the courage to defeat tyranny, our World War II veterans had the courage and strength to change our country for the better,” Bysiewicz said, “They did it without great fanfare – without seeking recognition – never asking to be honored. Today we salute them as the greatest generation.”

Mayor Capone Almon added “These proud Americans served with a quiet dignity that deserves recognition today and every day. It is such a pleasure to have met so many of them in the community; to hear their stories and share their memories. My only regret is that my own grandfathers didn't live to be part of the ceremony with many of the men they served with. However, it will be a joy to honor so many of their fellow soldiers.”