



NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

17 Court Street, Boston, MA 02108 617-371-1800 www.nechv.org

PROVIDING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH THE TOOLS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE:
ANCIENT & HONORABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
&
USMC RESERVE TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM
&
NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

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*******FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*******

(Boston, MA---20 November 2008) United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program & New England Center for Homeless Veterans Annual Holiday Donation Drive Sponsored by the Elected Sergeants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts will be held at Faneuil Hall, Boston Massachusetts on Monday evening 01 December 2008. Since 1972 the Elected Sergeants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts have hosted this annual holiday event at their headquarters in Faneuil Hall. Fellow members and their guests support the event by their contributions of toys for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program and clothing and for the New England Center for Homeless Veterans.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The Toys for Tots program wishes to play an active role in the development

of one of our nation's most valuable natural resources - our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future. Local Toys for Tots Campaign Coordinators conduct an array of activities throughout the year, which include golf tournaments, foot races, bicycle races and other purely voluntary events designed to increase interest in Toys for Tots, and concurrently generate toy and monetary donations. The program is a national effort administered locally; the community in which toys will be distributed is the same community in which they were collected. The success of the program relies on volunteer support and community involvement.

The Mission of the New England Center for Homeless Veterans is to extend a helping hand to homeless men and women veterans who are addressing the challenges of: addiction, trauma, severe and persistent mental illness, and/or unemployment and who will commit themselves to sobriety, non-violence, and working for personal change. Headquartered in downtown Boston, the Center has served over 15,000 homeless veterans since its inception in 1989 and is recognized as one of the most effective private veteran's transition programs in the country.

The Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company was Chartered by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts and Governor Winthrop in 1638 to train gentlemen as officers for the Massachusetts Militia, a role which the Company fulfilled until 1912. In addition the Company has served as a ceremonial unit for the Governor and the City of Boston; and as a patriotic, fraternal organization. The Company has been headquartered at Faneuil Hall since 1745. Today's members include distinguished professionals, businessmen, clerics, serving and retired military officers, including two Medal of Honor recipients; patriots all. Over the centuries the roll reads as a who's who of Massachusetts history including President John F. Kennedy, President Calvin Coolidge, patriot William Dawes, MG Benjamin Lincoln, Senator Leverett Saltonstall, James Michael Curley, Christian Herter and so on. The Company also operates a unique military museum on the 4th Floor of Faneuil Hall open Monday thru Friday 9 AM until 3 PM.

Information:

Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts: www.ahac.us.com

US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program (MA): www.toysfortotsma.org/

New England Center for Homeless Veterans: www.neshv.org

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