

## Office of the Mayor City of Los Angeles

## ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 1, 2012 Contact: Amanda Parsons Amanda.Parsons@lacity.org 213-978-0741

## CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO HOST FIRST VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, NOV. 10 IN FRONT OF USS IOWA

Mayor Villaraigosa, Councilman Buscaino, Port of Los Angeles, USS IOWA Offer Free Event and Resource Fair to Pay Tribute to Veterans

LOS ANGELES – In recognition of Veterans Day, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Councilman Joe Buscaino, in association with the Port of Los Angeles and the USS IOWA, will host the first-ever <u>Veterans Appreciation Festival</u> on Saturday, November 10. Free to the public, the event will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in front of the new <u>USS IOWA</u> battleship museum at the Port of Los Angeles. Veterans and their families will be allowed to tour the USS IOWA at no charge.

"This first-ever veterans festival is just one way that the City and its citizens can show our appreciation and gratitude to those who have so bravely and selflessly served our country," said Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa. "It's important that our local veterans continue to receive the services and benefits that they have rightly earned and deserve because of their military commitment, dedication and service."

"We encourage everyone to come to the USS IOWA on November 10 and show support for our local veterans who have made huge sacrifices to protect our freedoms," said Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino, who represents the 15<sup>th</sup> District where the festival will be held. "The event will be an unprecedented celebration with plenty of activities for the entire family, as well as an opportunity to see and experience our beautiful and revitalized LA Waterfront."

The Veterans Appreciation Festival will be held on the grounds of the USS IOWA battleship museum, which opened to the public this past July. The USS IOWA at the Port of Los Angeles is located at 250 South Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro. Parking is available on site for \$1 per hour. Free parking and shuttle service is available at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Sampson Way in San Pedro.

The festival will feature free food, resource booths for veterans, presentation of the colors by California State Military Reserve Color Guard, live music from acts such as "The Swing of

Things Band," "Rock for Vets Band" and "The Riptides Band," as well as a children's play zone and patriotic Harley riders.

An official program starts at 1:45 p.m. with a presentation of the Colors followed by remarks by Mayor Villaraigosa, Congresswoman Janice Hahn and Councilman Buscaino. United Way will also release a report on veteran unemployment in LA County during the program.

The Veterans Appreciation Festival is being made possible by major sponsors including Tesoro, Bank of American, Bones- Fox, United Way, Walmart, APM Terminals, BNSF, SEIU Local 72, Coca Cola, YTI and a variety of businesses, agencies and individual volunteers.

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