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## **Veterans from Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Named Grand Marshals of Patriot Day Parade**

**GRAND RAPIDS, MI, August 2, 2009** – The veterans from Grand Rapids Home for Veterans have been named the Grand Marshals of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Rapids Jaycees Patriot Day Parade, which will kick off at 9 a.m. on the corner of Monroe Avenue and Michigan Street in downtown Grand Rapids on Saturday, September 12.

The theme for this year's Patriot Day Parade, which the Grand Rapids Jaycees have organized and operated since 2004, is "United We Stand." Due to Celebration on the Grand activities, the parade will follow a new route this year: South on Monroe Avenue from Michigan Street to Fulton Street then east on Fulton Street to Ransom Avenue. A Memorial Service to honor all fallen heroes, including those killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks, will be held immediately after the parade at Veterans Memorial Park on Fulton Street.

"These veterans served their country with honor and now it's our turn to honor them," said Grand Rapids Jaycees President John Greko. The Jaycees will be collecting new personal care items for the veterans such as lip balm, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, and batteries at Veterans Memorial Park throughout the parade. The items will then be delivered to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at an ice cream social the Jaycees are hosting later in the afternoon after the parade.

Entries for the parade are still being accepted. For more information, call (616) 780-1220 or e-mail [patriotdayparade@yahoo.com](mailto:patriotdayparade@yahoo.com). Additional information is also available on the Grand Rapids Jaycees website at [www.grjaycees.org](http://www.grjaycees.org).

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The Grand Rapids Jaycees, also known as the Grand Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce, is an organization that provides young people between the ages of 21-40 with opportunities to meet new people, network for business, build their personal and professional skills and help the community. The Grand Rapids Jaycees organize a number of community events such as the Santa Parade, Children's Holiday Shopping Tour and the Special Olympics Michigan State Basketball Tournament.

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