

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of the Mayor

Office of Communications



PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor Gray and Serve DC Encourage Residents to Honor September 11 and Men and Women in Uniform with Service

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — Mayor Vincent C. Gray and Serve DC – The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism are encouraging District residents to commemorate the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance and pay tribute to those who rose to serve in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by giving back to their country and their communities.

“This Day of Service and Remembrance offers us an exceptional opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to real heroes like first responders and military men and women,” Mayor Gray said. ***“Our words of gratitude are powerful, but even more so are pledges to volunteer our time to make a positive impact on our community.”***

Serve DC’s “#thankuniforms” campaign calls on residents to pledge and fulfill community-service hours to honor the service of men and women in uniform – first responders, current servicemembers, veterans and others. Pledged service hours and thank-you messages will be collected on behalf of Operation Honor Cards and shared with military service members and families. They will also be displayed in public venues in the District and at military installations across the country. Operation Honor Cards is a joint project of Blue Star Families, the Points of Light Institute, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Department of Defense and others. Inspired by the First Lady’s Joining Forces Campaign for military families, the program aims to create an atmosphere of shared service and a World War II-era sense of the entire country pitching in by encouraging Americans to perform service in honor of military families and veterans.

On September 11 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Serve DC volunteers will be at five Metro stations across the city assisting the public with completing service-hour pledge cards, writing thank-you messages, and sharing their commitment via social media. Metrorail stations include Foggy Bottom/GWU (GWU Hospital exit), Minnesota Avenue, Navy Yard/Ballpark (M Street and New Jersey Avenue exit), U Street/Cardozo (U and 12th Street exit), and Union Station (Massachusetts Avenue Exit).

In addition, Mayor Gray will join students at Friendship Collegiate Academy Public Charter School, 4095 Minnesota Avenue NE, at 10:00 a.m. for a Serve DC-sponsored service project, which includes assembling 400 emergency-preparedness kits for homeless veterans, participating in safety demonstrations and completing

honor cards. This event also commemorates National Preparedness Month, an annual FEMA-sponsored campaign to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, schools, organizations, businesses and communities.

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