



HARTFORD'S 375TH ANNIVERSARY COMES TO EMOTIONAL CLOSE WITH CEREMONY HONORING FLAG DAY AND THE NATIONAL 9/11 FLAG

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 14---

(June 14, 2011)--- Hartford's 375th Anniversary is now officially part of history. With a rousing rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America," the stitching and folding of the National 9/11 Flag, and the historical significance of Flag Day originating in Hartford 150 years ago, Connecticut's Capital City closed out its year-long salute to the founding of Hartford by the Rev. Thomas Hooker.

Mayor Pedro E. Segarra led a procession of city, state, and community leaders down Constitutional Corridor--- from Hartford's City Hall to Connecticut's Old State House--- while church bells rang at Center Church, which was Rev. Hooker's place of worship.

"Today, we stand where the first meeting house was built. 375 years later, we reaffirm Hooker's principals that later became the Fundamental Orders and the foundation of our democracy," said Mayor Segarra.

To honor one of America's oldest cities, the Hartford 375th Anniversary committee sponsored a series of events this past year:

1. Planting of 375 trees throughout the city to increase Hartford's tree canopy;
2. Recognizing the writing talents of high school students in Hartford in an essay contest to showcase the City's past and present, and the great hope for our future;
3. Hosting a series of cultural festivals, sporting activities and parades where banners and pride could be displayed;
4. And transferring the Hartford Archives--- more than one thousand boxes of documents and records dating back to 1639-- to the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library. This means the legacy of this 375th anniversary will be accessible to all--- for all time.

"Today's saluting of the National 9/11 Flag from the World Trade Center and the 150th anniversary of Flag Day is a tribute to Rev. Hooker's courage, his audacity to be different, and his adventurer spirit that helped make this city and country great by calling for a free and open government," said Mayor Segarra.

Also taking part in today's event were Sally Whipple of Connecticut's Old State House; Winifer Rosario of the Law and Government Academy at Hartford Public High School who led the crowd in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance; Shenel Johns, a jazz vocalist at the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford who sang our patriotic songs; Matt Poland, Executive Director of the Hartford Public Library; Former State Senator Billy Ciotto of Congressman John Larson's Office who presented a letter of tribute; Paul Mounds of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal's Office who presented a letter of congratulations; Police Chief Daryl K. Roberts and Fire Chief Edward Casares, Jr. representing our first line of defense; and a long list of community ambassadors including the Hartford Colonials Cheerleaders.

The Hartford 375th Anniversary is complete but the celebrating is not. Now the spotlight is on the Bicentennial of Harriet Beecher Stowe who once said, "The past, the present, and the future are really one: they are today."

The public is invited to visit the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library where this latest chapter in Hartford's rich and wonderful story is on display. A special thanks to Brenda Miller and Bill Faude for their contributions to this effort; and a special thanks to the Hartford 375 Committee for their commitment to this celebration for the past year.