



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

HOMETOWN HERO PRESENTS MAYOR AND CITY OF HARTFORD WITH AMERICAN FLAG

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(June 12, 2009) --- The City of Hartford got a jumpstart on Flag Day. Hometown Hero Air Force Staff Sgt. Dane Beckford recently returned home from Iraq and presented Mayor Eddie A. Perez and the City of Hartford with an American Flag that has been certified as flying in Iraq.

Sgt. Beckford moved to Hartford when he was 13-years-old. He is a graduate of Rawson School and Weaver High School and has bravely served our country for six years. He recently returned from Iraq where he was stationed for security detail. He has re-enlisted and leaves for Germany at the end of the month.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez says, "It is not everyday that we are honored with a presentation from one of our brave service people. This is an honor for the City of Hartford."

"On Sunday, and throughout the summer, you'll see American Flags proudly displayed. After this ceremony, the hope is that you'll look at those flags a little differently," Mayor Perez added.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation officially establishing Flag Day. There are conflicting stories on how this holiday originated. Several towns and cities take pride and ownership of this day, including Fredonia, Wisconsin, Collier Township, Pennsylvania, and yes, Hartford, Connecticut.

George Morris of Hartford wanted to honor the adoption of the American Flag that took place on June 14th, 1777. Hartford later observed the day in 1861, praying for the preservation of the Union.

Mayor Perez said, "George Morris is with us in spirit today and Air Force Staff Sgt. Dane Beckford is with us in person. We pray for his safe return to his wife and son, his family, his friends, and his City. We are deeply honored by his service."

On behalf of the elected and appointed officials, the Mayor presented a special proclamation and citation as a way of saying thank you to Sgt. Beckman for his service and his generosity to the people of Hartford.