



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 19, 2016

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER TO SPEAK AT THE 67th ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON**

HARTFORD, Connecticut --- Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces that Sean Connolly, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veteran Affairs, will address current and former armed service members at the 67th Annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, Connecticut, on Friday, May 20, 2016, at noon.

**This event is open to the media, beginning at 11:00 a.m.**

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The Armed Forces Day Luncheon provides an opportunity to recognize the men and women of Connecticut who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Connolly, a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, is an East Hartford native who worked most recently as Pratt & Whitney's Global Ethics and Compliance Officer prior to his confirmation. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as a Prosecutor and Brigade Legal Advisor with the 101st Airborne Division in both Kuwait and Iraq.

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“Commissioner Connolly has brought a great deal of knowledge and experience to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and we are honored to have him as part of our official party to acknowledge the Reserve Component service members here in Connecticut,” said Maj. Gen. Martin.

The luncheon will recognize one local service member of each component of the Armed Forces in an award ceremony to include: the Connecticut Army National Guard, the Connecticut Air National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve.

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**Directions:** (To the Aqua Turf) – **From Hartford** – I 84 West and take Exit 29 (left hand exit). At the end of the exit, take a left. Come to first light and take a right onto Mulberry Street. Go approximately 1-½ miles and the Aqua Turf will be on your right.