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For Immediate Release

Utah National Guard's Honorary Colonels Corps Hosts 49th Annual Awards Dinner

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah National Guard will host its 49th Annual Minuteman Awards Dinner Wednesday, June 23, at Salt Lake's Little America Hotel at 7:00 p.m.

The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah will sponsor the event. The Corps is an organization of community leaders who promote goodwill and positive relations between the National Guard and local Utah communities. Members provide annual support for Utah Army and Air National Guard activities such as the Freedom Academy and Veterans Day concert.

Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet and Honorary Colonels Corps Commander, retired Brig. Gen. E.J. "Jake" Garn, will present Bronze Minuteman awards to Chief Master Sergeant Robert A. Hill, Melba H. Wahlen, Richard A. Parkinson, Gerald R. "Skip" Daynes Jr., Fred C. Adams, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf and Governor Gary Herbert for their individual devoted service to and leadership among the citizens of Utah.

Here is a short summary of each recipient's accomplishments:

Hill began his military career in 1979 in the Utah Air National Guard as an aircraft and early-warning systems radar repairman. He served in positions of increasing responsibility in the 106th Tactical Control Flight, 151st Communications Flight, 299th Range Control Squadron and 151st Air Refueling Wing. For the last four years, Hill has served as the State Command Chief for the Utah Air National Guard. Hill is responsible for the welfare, readiness, morale, and professional development of enlisted personnel and represents the highest level of enlisted leadership for the Utah Air National Guard.

Wahlen is the widow of Medal of Honor recipient George E. Wahlen, who was decorated for heroism in World War II. For 63 years she and her husband worked tirelessly to support Veterans and their families. Wahlen is quoted as saying, "I just fell in love with the military, and to this day I think there's nothing more beautiful than our flag or a person in uniform." She takes advantage of every opportunity to thank those serving our country. She truly represents all spouses of those who so valiantly serve and have served.

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Parkinson is president and CEO of Associated Food Stores, Inc., serving in that position since 1994. During Parkinson's tenure Associated Foods has seen sales increases in excess of \$1.4 billion. Parkinson also serves currently as a board member of the Food Marketing Institute and is the chairman of Western Family Foods. In 2009, under Parkinson's direction, Associated Foods donated approximately \$7,500 worth of food and water for the Utah National Guard's Freedom Academy.

Daynes is the fourth-generation president of Daynes Music and is a member of the Utah Guard's Honorary Colonels Corps. He is a founder of the Fine Arts Board for the University of Utah and is a past president of the Utah Rotary Club. Daynes Music has provided a Steinway grand piano for the 23rd Army Band's use at the Utah National Guard's annual Veterans Day concert for the past many years. The company delivers the grand piano to the Huntsman Center, has it tuned and retrieves it the day after the concert at no charge to the National Guard.

Adams served in Korea with the U.S. Army in 1952-54. After completing doctoral studies in Theater Arts he began his career as a professor at Southern Utah University in 1959. Upon his retirement from the university, he devoted his energies to the most prestigious repertory theatre and Shakespearean festival in the United States. He also consults and advises the Festival concerning selection of plays, directors, designs and long-term planning. He continues to be highly visible at the Festival as he conducts orientations, participates in Festival functions and greets patrons.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf was born in Czechoslovakia and grew up in Germany. He joined the German Air Force in 1959 and trained as a fighter pilot in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1965, he joined Lufthansa German Airlines as a pilot. He later held several executive positions with Lufthansa to include director of in-flight services and senior vice president of flight operations. He was named a General Authority for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1996 and was called as second counselor in the church's First Presidency in 2008. Over the past several years President Uchtdorf has cultivated a relationship with the Utah Air National Guard, visiting the base on a number of occasions, providing spiritual guidance to Airmen and joining pilots and crew on a KC-135 Stratotanker orientation flight.

Governor Gary Herbert is commander in chief of the Utah National Guard. He served six years in the Utah Guard in the 1970s with the 1-145th Field Artillery in target acquisition and ground survey. A realtor by profession, Herbert began his political career as a Utah County commissioner in 1990. During his time as commissioner, he served as president of the Utah Association of Counties and Utah Association of Realtors, and he served as a board member of the Provo-Orem Chamber of Commerce and Utah Water Conservancy District. He served as lieutenant governor to Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr., and was sworn in as governor in 2009 when Huntsman was appointed U.S. Ambassador to China.

Media Notes: Salt Lake's Little America hotel is located at 500 S. Main. Media are welcome to cover the black-tie event. There will be a receiving line for dignitaries at 6:30 p.m. prior to the dinner. For more information, please contact Lt. Col. Patrick Osmond (801) 716-9082.