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**Contact: Staff Sgt. Brock Jones, (801) 380-7777**

## **For Immediate Release**

### **West Jordan City and Utah Guard to Sign Community Covenant Nov. 11**

DRAPER, Utah – The city of West Jordan and the Utah National Guard will hold a Community Covenant-signing ceremony on Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11, at 3 p.m., in the Community Room at West Jordan City Hall.

In addition to the Community Covenant ceremony, the city will also dedicate their newly-erected Freedom Shrine and host an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. as part of the community's Veteran's Day observance.

Scheduled to participate in the ceremony and sign the Community Covenant are West Jordan Mayor Melissa Johnson; Brig. Gen. Jefferson Burton, assistant adjutant general, Utah National Guard; members of the city council and other community leaders in government, religion, business and higher education.

The Army's Community Covenant Program began in 2008 with a signing ceremony in Columbus, Ga., involving the Fort Benning community. The program in partnership with the Utah National Guard launched in Utah on Feb. 23, 2010, with an official citation read and signed on the floor of the Utah State Legislature.

The Community Covenant is a formal commitment of support by local communities to service members of all military branches and their families – active, Guard and Reserve – as well as former members of the military, and is designed to foster and sustain effective community and military relationships and to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

Since the program began in the state early this year, the Utah Guard has taken the lead across the nation with the Community Covenant Program.

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“We are the only state with a full-time team dedicated to Community Covenants,” said Maj. Annette Barnes, director of State Family Programs, Utah National Guard. “The reason we’re pushing the Community Covenant Program is we want to raise awareness in communities about the needs and challenges facing military families, and to encourage communities to embrace military families and be innovative in finding ways to support them.”

The city’s Freedom Shrine, as well as the ceremony, is sponsored by the West Jordan Exchange Club.

**Media Notes:** The signing ceremony is scheduled to be held in the Community Room, West Jordan City Hall, 8000 South Redwood Road. Please contact Staff Sgt. Brock Jones with questions at (801) 380-7777 or via email at [brock.michael.jones@us.army.mil](mailto:brock.michael.jones@us.army.mil).