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For Immediate Release

First Lady to Recognize a Utah Community Covenant City

WASHINGTON – Local leaders and residents of Richfield, Utah will spend Wednesday, April 10, 2012 at the White House where they will be announced as one of five winners in the Joining Forces Community Challenge by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden.

Of more than 300 submissions, the city of Richfield was recognized for displaying exemplary support to military families.

Winners were selected based on input from Tom Brokaw, J.R. Martinez, Sloan D. Gibson, Mayor Julian Castro and Deanie Dempsey.

This event will not only honor the 20 finalists, but also commemorate the one year mark of the Joining Forces Program, which aims to build community efforts to support Military members and their families.

Richfield has been a major supporter during each of their local Army National Guard unit's four deployments since 9/11.

After signing a Community Covenant on May 12, 2011 Richfield representatives implemented coordinated, collaborative community support for local Veteran and military families. Their efforts identified local military family needs and initiated solutions.

The Department of the Army's Community Covenant program's mission is fostering and sustaining formal, continuing relationships with communities in order to increase the quality of life, well-being, and readiness of Service members, Veterans and their families. April 17 marks the four-year anniversary of the program.

Quotes from Attendees:

Mike Turner, Richfield city councilmember, Community Covenant Program Chair - "When these men and women deploy we felt it was important that we as a city deploy as well. By that I mean we deploy all of our resources to make life as normal and hospitable as we possibly can for the families of these soldiers. Our goal is let the families and soldiers know that they are not alone in their service to our country and community."

DonaMae Workman, Richfield Resident, Family Readiness Group Leader for A Btry, 2/222 FA - "The citizens of Richfield City and the surrounding areas stepped into our Family Readiness Group committee as concerned friends, and actual committee members, willing to help carry the daily demands of the deployment along side of the actual military families by helping anywhere they were able."

"The community covenant is only a formal name to what our community has a long history of doing."

Capt. Cody Workman, Richfield Resident, Commander of A Btry, 2/222 FA- "I believe that the support Richfield City has given to our Soldiers had a direct impact on our ability to perform our missions in theatre. Richfield City goes out of its way to take care of the families of deployed Soldiers. This alleviates many worries and allows the Soldiers to focus on the mission at hand."

"Richfield City is in a league of its own when it comes to taking care of and honoring service men and women. When you drive into Richfield, the first thing you see is a huge Community Covenants sign that highlights the community's commitment to those who serve. Almost every business in town participates in the Richfield Community Covenant program and proudly displays a sign in the window showing their support."

"While we were deployed, the Community Covenants program sponsored monthly activities for the families, including a fishing trip for our kids to Fish Lake so the kids would not have to miss out on that while so many fathers were gone. For our families, members of the Community Covenants program fixed everything from sprinklers to cars, they provided free tax and legal advice and other services."

"I believe that the Community Covenants program merely formalized what Richfield City has been doing forever: honoring and caring for those who make our community such a wonderful place to live. It is great to see them receiving such awesome recognition for all that they do for us."

Additional Information:

Richfield Community Covenant video that was submitted as part of nomination:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbu9umnAdLk>
