



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 28, 2013
PRESS CONTACT: Bronwyn Dannenfelser
Office: (401) 273-1155 x142
Bronwyn@waterfire.org

WaterFire Providence to host First Ever Salute to Veterans

Alex and Ani, the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association, Citizens Bank and many other generous sponsors help WaterFire honor Veterans across Southern New England

Providence, RI: WaterFire Providence, with the assistance of Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee, is proud to announce the first ever full WaterFire lighting dedicated to Veterans and their families on Saturday, November 9, 2013: The WaterFire Salute to Veterans. Sunset is at 4:31 and the fires will be lit shortly thereafter. This fire is sponsored by Gold Star Sponsor [Alex and Ani](#), Bronze Star Sponsor [Citizens Bank](#), Media Sponsor the [Rhode Island Broadcasters Association](#) and other supporting sponsors.

“I am pleased that *WaterFire* will be honoring the fine men and women and their families who have and currently sacrificed so much for our State. Rhode Island must be a place that honors and respects them by doing all we can during and after their service. On behalf of the State of Rhode Island, I thank Alex and Ani for sponsoring this salute to the men and women who have worn and are currently wearing the uniform of our nation.”

- Governor Lincoln Chafee

The WaterFire Salute to Veterans will be the largest celebration of its kind, as all facets of the Rhode Island and military communities come together to thank and honor those that have dedicated their lives to our country and our community. With the full support of Senator Jack Reed, the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, Mayor Angel Taveras, Governor Lincoln Chafee, and special key note speaker, Rear Admiral Ted Carter of the Naval War College and its sponsors, WaterFire looks forward to celebrating and highlighting and thanking the brave service men and women in our community.

"The men and women of the Rhode Island National Guard, who have served and sacrificed during a decade of war, are extremely humbled and appreciative of the outpouring and support from the great citizens of Rhode Island. The gratitude and genuine awareness of that sacrifice expressed by our citizens during this difficult period, is a point of pride throughout the entire force."

-Major General McBride, Adjutant General and Commanding General of the RI Guard

Station Park gets lit up by [Alex and Ani's Charity by Design](#) starting at 3PM. Starting at 3PM join us at the Alex and Ani Stage for special musical performances by the Navy Band Northeast. **Alex and Ani artist and American Idol Finalist, [Jimmie Allen](#), will also be performing at 6 PM.** Join us throughout the night for other amazing local performers.

"Alex and Ani's Charity By Design program is honored to sponsor The WaterFire Salute to Veterans on November 9th, 2013. Our new relationship will continue our celebration of America's Veterans and help spread support for their service. We are proud to collaborate on such a wonderful event here in our hometown."

-Giovanni Feroce, CEO, Alex and Ani

"WaterFire is proud to work with the entire community to honor and thank the Veterans who have protected our country and our freedom for generations. Freedom is the life blood of our nation and of art and we offer this evening in thanks to the service of our Veterans. Communities are made stronger by all of us doing our part in service to the larger good. On behalf of WaterFire, our staff, board, volunteers and sponsors, we are grateful to so many who have given so much."

-Barnaby Evans, Executive Artistic Director, WaterFire

Military Services are taking over Station Park! Stop by to learn more about the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines and the RI National Guard through fun and interactive displays - like the pull-up challenge. Learn about a career in the military and talk to veterans. All services will be on site to answer questions, hand out giveaways, answer questions about recruitment, and provide more information about their branches of service.

[Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick LTD](#), [Amica Mutual Insurance Company](#), [TACO](#) and [The White Family Foundation](#) and [Your Local Chevy Dealers](#) come together to sponsor the [Veterans Resource Fair](#). **The Veterans Resource Fair will open at 3:00 PM on Steeple Street and feature the Rhode Island VA and other Rhode Island organizations that provide services and support to Veterans and their families. From medical help and job transition services to educational programs and veteran's family services, WaterFire invites veterans, their families and the public to come and learn about all of the amazing resources available to Veterans. As always, this event is free**

and WaterFire hopes to help ensure that our Vets have the service and support they need to connect them with the myriad of resources available to them and to their families.

[Banneker Industries](#) helps to kick off the WaterFire lighting with a 100 Veteran Torch Procession and 200 Veteran Ring of Fire in Waterplace Basin. WaterFire invites you to join us just before 5 PM as Veterans from our community participate in a procession down to Waterplace Basin led by the RI Professional Firefighters Pipes and Drums. Here they will join their brothers and sisters in arms to surround the basin in a ring of fire ceremony with a presentation of the colors as the National Anthem is played by the Navy Band Northeast and the Army 88th Band on the basin stage.

WaterFire lights and activates Providence war memorials and Memorial Park in honor of our Veterans. Memorial Park will be alight with blue stars to honor the Blue Star Families of Rhode Island, or those families that have a loved one serving in the military. Visitors are invited to attach their hopes, dedications and thanks to our Veterans to these stars and the luminaria candle lanterns on the park floor. Other special events in this area include:

- Starting at 6:30 WaterFire will activate the WWI, WWII and Korean war memorials in downtown Providence with special ceremonies at each one recognizing the service and sacrifice of all generations of Veterans. WaterFire will also be hosting a “Welcome Home” tent to honor our Vietnam Veterans as well as a special Soldiers Cross ceremony for our Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans
- Gold Star Families will be recognized in the upper field of Memorial Park with one golden star for each Rhode Island family that has lost a loved one in the most recent conflict.
- A Missing Man Table will also be set up in Memorial Park to honor and recognize all those soldiers that have gone into battle and will not return. Full of symbolism, this table contains many items that remind us of the sacrifices of both military and civilian lives lost and affected through combat and military service.

A special ceremony of a flotilla of three memorial vessels will pass through the bonfires along the length of the river between 8:00 and 8:30 PM to honor and remember the service men and women that are no longer with us. Guests are invited to toss red, white and blue carnations upon the water for this passage. The flowers are sponsored by the [American Nursing Association/Rhode Island Nursing Association](#) in honor of those that have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

RIPTA will be providing free rides to Veterans from 2 PM to 10 PM to the WaterFire Salute to Veterans. Please have proof of service (military ID card or otherwise) and join us!

WaterFire also invites, for the first time, members of the community to sponsor a brazier in honor of a Veteran. Each of WaterFire’s braziers will burn brightly for the Veterans of our community throughout the evening on November 9th and for \$250 individuals and groups can

sponsor a brazier in honor or memory of a special Veteran in their life. For more information, please contact Corinne Barber at corinne@waterfire.org or at 401.273.1155 x140.

It is incredibly important that we, as a community, recognize the service and sacrifice of the men and women that have served in America's military. We look forward to celebrating through WaterFire all that they have done and thanking our Veterans face to face and as a community- Please join us.

WaterFire Providence is an independent, non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. For more information or to donate, visit: www.waterfire.org

###