

City of Wentzville News Release

PHONE: (636) 327-5101

www.wentzvillemo.org

For immediate release: October 10, 2012

For more information:

Wentzville Mayor Nick Guccione (636) 639-0354

Carol Watanabe, Executive Dir. Little Patriots Embraced, (314) 821-5800

Mayor's Office to Be Toy-Drive Drop-Off Location for Children of Active-Duty Military Personnel

Wentzville, MO—Wentzville's **Mayor Nick Guccione** is opening his office at City Hall as one of four Wentzville drop-off locations for the **Little Patriots Embraced** toy drive. From October 15 thru November 30, area residents can drop off at **City Hall**, 310 West Pearce Blvd., new, unwrapped toys for the children of active-duty military personnel. In addition to toys for youngsters, gifts for teens are needed. Toy-drive organizers say gift cards work well for teens. If people prefer, they can also go to the organization's Web site, www.littlepatriotsembraced.org, and make a donation through PayPal.

Little Patriots Embraced, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that serves the families of active-duty military personnel. Little Patriots Embraced will collect the toys from area drop-off locations and deliver them to active-duty military families in time for Christmas. The other three drop-off locations in Wentzville will be **Wentzville's Utility Service Center** at 5 West Pearce Blvd., **Reliance Bank** at 985 Wentzville Pkwy., and **Dairy Queen** at 702 South Church St.

Guccione said he knew he wanted to open his office to a toy drive over the holidays, but hadn't decided which one until he was contacted in late September by Little Patriots Embraced. "When I read about the work they do to serve our country's military families, I was impressed. I feel strongly we need to serve the families of our military personnel at a time when their loved ones are serving us," said Guccione.

Carol Watanabe, founder and executive director of Little Patriots Embraced, said they currently have over 6,300 children on a waiting list for the organization's programs. "Last year we had over 2,000," said Watanabe, "but as the word gets out about what we're doing, we're getting e-mails from soldiers asking for our help." Since its founding in 2004, Little Patriots Embraced has served over 14,000 children and thousands of military families through year-round programs.

-end-