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CONNECTICUT FUNERAL HOMES INVITE PUBLIC TO BRING UNWRAPPED TOYS & GIFT CARDS FOR CT NATIONAL GUARD'S OPERATION ELF – Nov. 17 – Nov. 30
Names, addresses & phone #s of all 28 locations provided below

WETHERSFIELD, CONN., November 11, 2016 – Close to 30 funeral homes across Connecticut will welcome public donations of bring unwrapped toys and gift cards for the Connecticut National Guard's *Operation ELF* collection drive between Thursday, November 17th and Wednesday, November 30th. For the past 11 years, members of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association (CFDA) have made personal donations of toys, gift cards and funds for Operation ELF (Embracing Lonely Families). That yearly collection drive has been so successful that the professional funeral service organization is encouraging Connecticut residents to join them in a statewide collection drive.

"Our family of Connecticut funeral directors and suppliers is expanding our annual *Operation ELF* collection drive to encourage state residents to assist military families who could use help during the holiday season," explained Howard K. Hill, CFSP, CPC, CCO, the 2015 and 2016 President of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association. "By doing this, we add 28 new Operation ELF drop-off locations to supplement the wonderful effort's four major sites. We ask everyone to step forward, take a few minutes of their time, and come donate an item that will mean so much to another Connecticut family." In addition, on Thursday, December 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., people also may bring unwrapped toys and gift cards to the CFDA's Annual Convention at the Radisson Cromwell Hotel at 100 Berlin Rd. (Route 372) in Cromwell.

All items collected by the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association will be delivered directly to Operation ELF, which assists the families of Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen who are deployed during the holidays, and provides a wide range of support to military families throughout the year. Needed are donations of unwrapped toys for young people of any age, and gift cards of any dollar value to grocery, department stores, home supply stores, gas stations, and pharmacies.

"We are grateful that our military men and women have bravely answered the call to duty. Operation ELF makes that deployment just a little bit easier for their families," said Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, who launched Operation ELF's 15th annual collection effort earlier this month with Major General Thad Martin, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard. "I applaud the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association for their support and thank them for supporting Connecticut's troops."

In 2015, Operation ELF distributed more than \$10,000 in gift cards to military families in need, its Adopt-A-Family program supported more than 125 military families, and hundreds of toys were distributed to children of Soldiers and Airmen.

Donations to the following CFDA Funeral Homes may be dropped off during regular business hours at any of the following 28 funeral homes between Nov. 17th and Nov. 30th (in alphabetical order according to town):

Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center
301 Country Club Rd. in Avon, 860-673-8610

Funk Funeral Home

35 Bellevue Ave. in **Bristol**, 860-583-4107

Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Cheshire

615 S. Main St. in **Cheshire**, 203-272-7209

Cornell Memorial Home

247 White St. in **Danbury**, 203-748-4833

Edward F. Adzima Funeral Home

253 Elizabeth St. in **Derby**, 203-735-0111

D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel

30 Carter Street in **East Hartford**, 860-568-9420

Shaughnessey-Banks Funeral Home

50 Reef Rd. in **Fairfield**, 203-255-1031

Spear-Miller Funeral Home

39 South Benson Rd. in **Fairfield**, 203-259-0824

John F. Tierney Funeral Home

219 West Center St. in **Manchester**, 860-643-1222

John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home

88 East Main St. in **Meriden**, 203-235-3338

Mystic Funeral Home

51 Williams Ave. – Rt. 1 in **Mystic**, 860-536-2888

Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home

411 South Main St. in **New Britain**, 860 229-5676

Howard K. Hill Funeral Service

1287 Chapel St. in **New Haven**, 203-624-4477

Newington Memorial Funeral Home

20 Bonair Ave. in **Newington**, 860-666-0600

Thomas L. Neilan & Sons Funeral Home

48 Grand St. in Niantic, 860-739-6112

Burke-Fortin Funeral Home

76 Prospect St. in **Rockville**, 860-875-5490

Rose Hill Funeral Home

580 Elm St. in **Rocky Hill**, 860-529-3381

Ralph E. Hull Funeral Home

161 West Church St. in **Seymour**, 203-888-2538

Riverview Funeral Home, Inc.

390 River Rd. in **Shelton**, 203-924-6800

Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home

419 Buckland Rd. in **South Windsor**, 860-644-2940

Adzima Funeral Home

50 Paradise Green Place in **Stratford**, 203-375-2200

Cook Funeral Home

82 Litchfield St. in **Torrington**, 860-482-4456

Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home

258 Prospect St. in **Torrington**, 860-489-4104

B. C. Bailey Funeral Home

273 South Elm St. in **Wallingford**, 203-265-1111

Wallingford Funeral Home

809 North Main Street Ext. in **Wallingford**, 203-269-7777

D'Esopo Funeral Chapel

277 Folly Brook Blvd. in **Wethersfield**, 860-563-6117

Potter Funeral Home

456 Jackson St. in **Willimantic**, 860-423-2211

Carmon Community Funeral Home

807 Bloomfield Ave. in **Windsor**, 860-688-2200

Donations also may be dropped off from now through December 12th during normal business hours at the four (4) following Operation ELF Collection Sites. Large quantity donations or anyone requiring drop-off outside of business hours, please call 800-858-2677.

Army Aviation Support Facility

Bradley International Airport
85-300 Light Lane (Off of Route 75)
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

William A. O'Neill Armory

360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Armed Forces Reserve Center

90 Wooster Heights Road
Danbury, CT 06702

New London Armory

249 Bayonet Street
New London, CT 06320

Gift cards or financial contributions (made through the [CT National Guard Foundation](#)) may be mailed to:


Connecticut National Guard

Office of Family Programs
360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105

The [Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc.](#) is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization that provides emergency financial assistance for Connecticut National Guard members and their families. Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information about Operation ELF, please call 800-858-2677 or visit the Connecticut National Guard [Facebook](#) page.

The 128-year-old [Connecticut Funeral Directors Association](#) is comprised of funeral directors at more than 220 funeral homes. Based in Wethersfield, Conn., the professional organization is committed to the promotion and

advocacy of high ethical standards in funeral service. This includes the development and presentation of ongoing professional training opportunities for practitioners and educational programs for association members and the public. **For more information about the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association** or its **Operation ELF collection drive**, call 860-721-0234 or 800-919-2332, or visit www.ctfda.org or  *Connecticut Funeral Directors Association*.

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