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**DEKALB COUNTY**

**W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.**  
Chief Executive Officer



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CEO ELLIS, VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD “HONOR THE INFANTRY”**

*DeKalb County's Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony in its 9<sup>th</sup> year*

**DECATUR** – Veterans took center stage today in DeKalb County as CEO Burrell Ellis and the DeKalb Veterans Affairs Advisory Board hosted **“Honoring the Infantry”**, the county's 2009 Veterans Day Recognition program. The ceremony, which was held in the Old Courthouse on the Square, paid tribute to the men and women who put their lives on the line to secure our freedom.

“This is the 9th year that DeKalb County is formally honoring our veterans with a ceremony,” said CEO Ellis. “I participate in these programs, not out of habit, but because I understand it is important for us to recognize the gift that veterans have given to this country. That is why we must be steadfast in our commitment to them once they have returned from service.”

Mike Sauls of the DeKalb Veteran Advisory Board served as Master of Ceremony for the event and Ray Jones, Chairman of the Board, introduced the CEO. Major General Larry Taylor, USMCR, served as the guest speaker. Taylor, who recently returned from a year in Iraq, reminded the crowd comprised of veterans, police, and civilians that our differences are what make us American. Other program participants included LTC Tommy Thompson of the Veteran Administration who served as the Chaplin, musical selections by Redan High School Band, and Posting of Colors by the Lithonia High School ROTC Color Guard.

During the ceremony, DeKalb County resident and retired Sgt. First Class Macron Justice was honored for his service. During his 22 years in the U.S. Army, Mr. Justice received several honors including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He is listed on his military card as being a Black Bayonet Fighter and Trainer with the M1 rifle, and he served with General Abrams' Honor Guard in Frankfurt, Germany. Mr. Justice was presented with a proclamation from CEO Ellis declaring November 10, 2009 “Macron Justice Day” in DeKalb. “I am honored to present retired Sgt. First Class Macron Justice with this proclamation on behalf of the people of DeKalb County in recognition of his service to our country,” CEO Ellis said.

In his closing remarks, CEO Ellis reaffirmed DeKalb County's commitment to veterans and said “As we reorganize and reprioritize our goals as a county, you have my word and solemn promise that the needs of our veterans will remain at the top of our list of priorities.”

**(MORE)**

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CEO Ellis addresses the audience



CEO Ellis and dignitaries salute the flag of the United States of America

**(MORE)**



Service men and women salute



Left to right: Retired LTC Tommy Thompson, Chaplain, Veterans Administration; Bob Sims, Deputy Director DeKalb Facilities Management; Ray Jones, Chairman, Veterans Affairs Advisory Board; retired Sgt. First Class Macron Justice; Mike Sauls, Veterans Affairs Advisory Board member; CEO Burrell Ellis; and Eric Hubbard, Community Liaison for Congressman Hank Johnson.

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