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**WAWA WELCOME AMERICA! PHILADELPHIA INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
SET TO BREAK GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS**

PHILADELPHIA (May 6, 2010) – Can Philadelphia set the world record for the largest number of ‘high fives’ at a special event? Judges from the Guinness Book of World Records in England will find out on July 4th as thousands of parade-goers touch the hand of Marine Colonel John Folsam of Nebraska, founder of the Wounded Warriors Project. The goal is more than 6,000 high fives. The World Record attempt is just one highlight of the City’s largest-ever July 4th parade which features an array of entertaining, patriotic and multicultural marchers, music, dancers, and floats.

Miss America 2010, Caressa Cameron, America’s Got Talent’s own DC Cowboys Dance Troupe, and Walt Disney World vocalist Davonda Simmons are among the impressive list of celebrities in this glorious event which features over 3,500 participants from across the nation.

For the second year in a row the parade will march through downtown Historic Philadelphia. It steps off at 11 am at 5th and Chestnut Streets immediately following the July 4th Independence Day Ceremony, where Mayor Michael Nutter and other dignitaries honor America’s 234th birthday. The procession heads up Chestnut Street, passing Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, turns right on 7th Street, then proceeds one block north to Market Street where it turns right again. Once on Market Street the parade marches six blocks downtown through Historic Philadelphia and ends at Front Street.

Spectators will enjoy uninterrupted entertainment along the entire parade route from 14 marching bands and 11 multicultural groups in spectacular costumes. Among the bands are the Fairmount West Virginia Steel Drum band, and two Army bands—the 78th from New Jersey and the 135th from Missouri. Drill teams, drum and bugle corps and, of course, Mummers, will get the crowds moving with their peppy melodies and danceable beats. Modern and antique fire engines and police vehicles have been enlisted to cruise down the parade route alongside classic cars.

Other special guests include Miss Philadelphia, Miss Pennsylvania, Miss New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New Jersey’s Miss America’s Outstanding Teen, and 2010 Pennsylvania Teachers of the Year for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Twenty-first century superstars and talented teachers and youth are not the only celebrities on the guest list. Historical figures Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington will ride the 1776 float, and Betsy Ross will make her way up the parade route in a horse-drawn carriage. The Mattatuck Drum Band from Connecticut, founded in 1767 and the oldest continuing fife and drum band in America, will bring the music of our founding fathers to the crowds lining Philadelphia's historic streets. And Wawa will recall its earliest days as its 1918 antique dairy truck takes a spin down the parade route.

Set to make this year's parade unforgettable is a "Salute to the Armed Forces" featuring a float for America's finest and representatives from all five branches of the military. Active duty enlisted men and women and officers from the Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard will be joined by Veterans by the hundreds. The salute will be led by the Pennsylvania Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycles, a group that pays homage to African American soldiers who fought as early as the Spanish American war.

All spectators lining the mile-long parade route have equal viewing access to the exciting performances and floats, no matter where they are located.

"The City of Philadelphia stands as a vibrant symbol of independence and freedom," said Mayor Michael Nutter. "As participants and visitors line the streets through Historic Philadelphia, the area where our independence was created centuries ago, they are sure to have a memorable and unique experience."

After marching the parade route, participants and visitors can continue their celebrations at any of the Wawa Welcome America! festival's other events on July 4th: the Super Scooper All-You-Can-Eat Ice Cream Festival, held from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm at the Great Plaza at Penn's Landing, allows attendees unlimited access to frozen treats for a donation of just \$5. Happy Birthday America, the annual Tastykake celebration at the Independence Visitor Center, kicks off at 12:30 p.m. After filling themselves with ice cream and krimpets, crowds can make their way to Ben Franklin Parkway for the highly anticipated Party on the Parkway. Among other attractions, the Party on the Parkway will feature a sanctioned Strongman competition, food vendors, multicultural stage performances, a children's Go 4th and Learn pavilion with arts and crafts, the "Green Zone" and a Sound of Philadelphia stage to delight visitors and locals alike. The day closes with the "Largest Free Concert in America" -- the spectacular "Life, Liberty and You" concert and fireworks spectacular headlined by The Goo Goo Dolls.

Wawa Welcome America! is a multi-day festival that celebrates America's birthday in America's birthplace and is produced by Welcome America, Inc. For more information, please visit www.welcomeamerica.com.

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