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Senator Keaveny to Participate in 22nd Annual Salute to Veterans Air Show

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Joe Keaveny, D-St. Louis, will be an honored guest at the 22nd Annual Salute to Veterans Air Show over the Memorial Day weekend at Columbia Regional Airport. Senator Keaveny has been invited to fly in a C-130 transport plane during the media day prior to the official kickoff of the Memorial Day Weekend Salute to Veterans.

“I’m thrilled to be able to join our veterans and pilots to fly in an aircraft that has played such a vital role in the defense of our nation,” Sen. Keaveny said. “The C-130 was the first plane to be commissioned during the Korean War and was used in most U.S. military engagements, up to and including Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. This aircraft has been a workhorse for the United States military.”

The C-130 was originally designed as a troop, medical evacuation, and cargo transport aircraft. The versatile aircraft has found uses in a variety of other roles, including as a gunship, for airborne assault, search and rescue, scientific research support, weather reconnaissance, aerial refueling, maritime patrol and aerial firefighting. It is the main tactical airlifter for many military forces worldwide. In 2007, the C-130 marked 50 years of continuous service to the U.S. Air Force.

Admission to the 22nd Annual Salute to Veterans Airshow is free to the public. The celebration continues with the Salute to Veterans Parade and Military Ceremony at the Boone County Courthouse on May 31st in downtown Columbia.

Ten demonstration teams will headline the Memorial Day Weekend event, including the “Screaming Eagles” parachute team, the USAF A-10 Thunderbolt II West Demo Team, and the famous WWI “Flying Circus” of the Kansas City Dawn Patrol.

The Salute to Veterans Airshow is a production of the Memorial Day Weekend Salute to Veterans Corporation, which consists of more than 3,000 volunteers and 100 volunteer committee chairmen.



Pilots and crew of the C-130 pose in front of one of the large transport planes that will participate in the 22nd Annual Salute to Veterans Airshow this Memorial Day Weekend.

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