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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF RENSSELAER HONORS YANKEE DOODLE BAND

Oldest, continuous American Legion band honored for its long and sustaining commitment to the City of Rensselaer

RENSSELAER, N.Y. (May 8, 2019) – The City of Rensselaer passed a resolution honoring the Yankee Doodle Band for its 90 plus years of service of bringing joy to the City of Rensselaer, as well as its sustaining commitment to the City and all other entities and events it has serviced.

Formed originally in 1927 as a drum and bugle corps comprised of returning WWI Veterans, the band evolved into a military style band in 1936, participating in WWII and the Vietnam War by performing at events to raise support and awareness for troops. Today, the band remains an ensemble of patriotic citizens, composed of youth and military veterans working to promote Capital District Veterans' organizations and community service organizations through parades, ceremonies and contests.

"The Yankee Doodle Band has been honoring Capital Region veterans for decades. It is now our turn as a City to honor the Yankee Doodle Band for their continued success and support they have garnered for the City's organizations," said Richard J. Mooney, mayor, City of Rensselaer.

"I am honored to pay tribute to the great success of the Yankee Doodle Band, they have been an integral part of our community for decades and will continue to be for the years to come," said John DeFrancesco, common council president for the City of Rensselaer.

Throughout its lifetime, the Yankee Doodle Band has performed at; official ceremonies at the plaza including the wedding of Governor Hugh Carey, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands' visit to Albany, and the annual Independence Day concert prior to the fireworks display. In addition, the band escorted the newly-elected Governor, Nelson A. Rockefeller, into his Inauguration Ball, and was asked to perform at the dedication ceremony for the Empire State Plaza.

The Fort Crailo American Legion "Yankee Doodle" Band is the oldest, continuous American Legion band in the country, entertaining the Capital District residents throughout the years. Rehearsals are held most Thursday evenings, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Fort Crailo American Legion Post in Rensselaer. To inquire about the band, contact yankeedoodleband@gmail.com.

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About the City of Rensselaer. Situated on the Banks of the Hudson, the City of Rensselaer is a small city with a rich history and a wide potential for future growth. With direct access to locations like New York City, Boston, and Montreal, the city is at a crossroads of industry and innovation. Its proximity to the Hudson River Waterfront and breathtaking views of Albany lends itself to an experience that combines metropolitan living with a close-knit sense of community. The 9,400 residents in Rensselaer are increasing every day, with the population growing 21 percent from 2000 to 2010. Rensselaer has cemented its historical legacy as one of the Capital Region's most important centers of trade and commerce for over 375 years, beginning as a railroad town and transitioning into a modern, professional, and accessible Transit Village. RensselaerNY.gov.

