



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: **Estella Espinosa**
Work (832) 395-7022
Cell (832) 465-4782

HPARD Honored by US Army & DOD For Therapeutic Recreation Program For Injured Service Members and Veterans

On Oct. 28, 2010, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) honored the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), and eleven public park and recreation agencies from around the U.S. for their efforts in providing community-based recreation programs and services for newly-returned service members and veterans over the past year.

During a ceremony at NRPA's 2010 Congress & Exposition: Connecting Communities, in Minneapolis, Minn, representatives of the U.S. Army and DOD presented certificates to the honorees signed by Lt. General Rick Lynch, assistant chief of staff for Installation Management.

Community park and recreation program honorees included: Austin, Texas; Boulder, Colo.; Eugene, Ore.; Fairfax Co., Va.; Fayetteville, N.C.; Groton, Conn.; Houston, Texas; Las Vegas, Nev.; Reno, Nev.; Richland Co., S.C.; and, Tampa, Fla.

"It was an honor to stand alongside the USOC Paralympic Division and the eleven funded park and recreation agencies, who deserve this mark of distinction from the U.S. Army and Department of Defense," said Shelley O'Brien, NRPA's Senior Manager of Fundraising. "In concert with the USOC Paralympics, park and recreation agencies are offering returned service members opportunities to join their families and communities through innovative community programs."

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“We humbly accept this award in the name of all our returning veterans for their service and sacrifice to our country,” said Joe Turner Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “Our goal is to continue to provide programs, facilities and opportunities that will have a positive affect on the rehabilitation process of our injured service men and women and their families.”

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of roughly 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrec-magazine.org.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.