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Coat drive helps Veterans in need stay warm
Warming hearts this holiday season one coat at a time

BOSTON, MA, November 13, 2011—State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez (D—Jamaica Plain) and Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Secretary Coleman Nee encourage state employees to participate in a coat drive to benefit the New England Center for Homeless Veterans from November 16, 2011 to December 16, 2011.

On Wednesday, November 16 at 9AM at the Massachusetts State House in the Members' Lounge, Representative Jeffrey Sánchez and Secretary Coleman Nee will host a press conference to inform all state employees about this about program.

State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez and Secretary Coleman Nee urge all state employees to bring in gently used coats and jackets of all shapes and sizes. The drop off locations for the coats is as follows:

- Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133 (Room 130, Hooker and Ashburton Park Place entrances)
- John W. McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108 (In front of the coffee shop)
- Charles F. Hurley Building, 19 Staniford Street , Boston, MA 02114 (Lobby)

All coats collected as a result of this drive will be distributed by the New England Center for Homeless Veterans to veterans in need across the Commonwealth.

“More than ever, veterans within the Commonwealth need our support during this high demand holiday season. We recognize that all our veterans have given something of themselves to this country and some have given all in laying down their lives to defend

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the freedoms we hold so dear. This coat drive is a small way of showing gratitude for all of the work our Massachusetts Veterans have done to serve our country,” said State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez.

Secretary Coleman Nee states, “Everyone who served this nation in uniform deserves more than our appreciation and thanks, but also the chance to live a meaningful and self-sufficient life. I applaud Rep. Sanchez for his actions and efforts to make this holiday season a little brighter for those veterans who are in need of both clothing and compassion.”

Andy McCawley, President and CEO at New England Center for Homeless Veterans, additionally states, “We would like to thank Representative Sanchez and Secretary Nee for sponsoring this initiative; and thank all of those who participate for their generous support. Veterans who receive a coat through this drive will be able to stay warm and comfortable during the fast approaching cold winter weather. In addition to the real and functional benefits of receiving a warm coat; the drive represents the deeper symbology of providing Veterans in-need with a garment from one’s back.”

Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) is the chief advocate for the nearly half-million veterans of the Commonwealth and their families. DVS establishes policy, proposes legislation, ensures that adequate funding for veterans' programs is included in the Governor's budget, and represents the interests of veterans in matters before the General Court. In addition, DVS represents all state agencies and individual veterans before the federal Department of Veterans Affairs in securing federal compensation and other benefits that might be available.

New England Center for Homeless extends a helping hand to homeless men and women veterans who are addressing the challenges of addiction, trauma, severe and persistent mental illness and unemployment. The New England Center for the Homeless Veterans is recognized as one of the most effective veteran’s private transition programs in the country.

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