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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veteran “VIPs” Join Forces with Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern CT on March 10th for the 31st Annual Crystal Ball

HARTFORD, Conn., February 23, 2018 – On March 10, at the Marriott in Hartford, CT, **Veteran VIPs** are joining forces with Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern CT as it hosts its 31st Annual Crystal Ball supporting life changing services with special emphasis on Veterans/Servicemembers & Military Family Programs. The Crystal Ball includes dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions & “Invest-in-a Veteran” donations. It promises to be an extraordinary night – not your typical GALA. Don’t miss it! Buy your tickets at: VeteransRallyPoint.com

The Honored Guest Speaker is retired **Four Star General William J. Begert, United States Air Force**. His last assignment was Commander - Pacific Air Forces. Among his awards and decorations are the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and 12 Air Medals. After retirement from the Air Force in 2004, General Begert spent over seven years as Pratt & Whitney’s Vice President of Military Engines, retiring in 2012.

Special Guest, **Commissioner of CT Veteran Affairs Thomas Saadi**. He was appointed Commissioner CT Veterans Affairs in January 2018. Prior to his appointment he served as Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs. Commissioner Saadi is a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve and also serves on the Danbury City Council. Commissioner Saadi received his Commission in the Army Reserve in 2005 and completed Officer Basic training in 2006, Officer Advanced training in 2014 and Command and General Staff College in 2016.

Veteran, Kevin Brown “Red Eagle” will be the engaging emcee for the 31st Annual Crystal Ball. A highly decorated, U.S. Army Colonel (ret.), Brown was also elected Chairman of the Mohegan Tribe in 2013 serving as Chairman of the Mohegan Gaming Authority Management Board. His 25-year military career includes extensive experience in strategic planning, combat leadership, and leading large military and civilian organizations while managing multimillion dollar budgets and forging international relationships.

Presenting Sponsor Stanley Black & Decker and Honorary Crystal Ball Committee Co-Chairs, Robert & Jeanne Leduc of Pratt & Whitney will set the stage for an exceptional and memorable experience on Saturday, March 10th as needed funds are raised to support the life changing services provided by Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern CT.

CARF Accredited and award winning, Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut is an affiliate of Easterseals, Inc., the leading nonprofit provider of services for individuals with a variety of barriers, including physical and cognitive disabilities. With our Nationwide Network Easterseals is proud to serve approximately 1.5 million people and their families. For 70 years, Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut has been providing comprehensive rehabilitation services, integrating medical and vocational rehabilitation, mental health, neuropsychological, educational and day support services to Veterans/Servicemembers, adults, seniors and children. Our purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disability and barriers by making profound, positive differences in people’s lives every day. We are rebuilding minds, bodies and lives...

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