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Mark J. Nolan, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VET HOUSE RECEIVES NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Danbury's **Vet House** project to assist homeless veterans has been selected as a winner of the **2011 Gabe Zimmerman Award for Public Service** by the **National Community Development Association (NCDA)**. The award was the result of a national competition to identify and recognize exemplary uses of Community Development Block Grant funds that best address the needs of low-income families and neighborhoods. Danbury Housing Partnership Chair Mark J. Nolan represented Danbury at the awards presentation luncheon held in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2011.

Mr. Nolan commented: **"I was proud to represent Danbury at this event and to accept this prestigious award on behalf of the great community partners that made this project a reality. This award provides national recognition to the combined efforts of Mayor Mark Boughton of the City of Danbury, President (and Vietnam veteran) Paul Valeri of the Non-Profit Development Corporation of Danbury (NPDCD) and Chairman Domenico Chieffalo of the Housing Authority of the City of Danbury (HACD) in working together to support the men and women of our Armed Forces who have made such great sacrifices in service to our country."**

Located at 18 New Street, **Vet House** is a keystone of the City's **Housing For Heroes** plan to address the housing needs of veterans. The project consists of six transitional housing beds for homeless veterans as well as four permanent SRO-style units. Major development partners included NPDCD, the City of Danbury and HACD. Operational partners assisting NPDCD in providing supportive services for veterans at the facility include MCCA Incorporated, Dream Homes Community Center and VA Connecticut Healthcare Systems. NPDCD secured a capital grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to help fund the project. Additional funding came from NPDCD, the City of Danbury Community Development Block Grant Program, HACD and Savings Bank of Danbury. HACD also provided rental assistance for residents of the permanent units. NPDCD is currently working with the City of Danbury on development of Vet House II, which will consist of three permanent rental units for veterans.

Formerly known as the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award, the award was recently re-named by NCDA to honor long-time community development expert **Gabe Zimmerman**, a victim of the recent tragic shooting incident in Arizona. The **Gabe Zimmerman Award for Public**

Service seeks to encourage excellence and innovation in community development by recognizing exemplary achievements.

NCDA is a national nonprofit organization representing more than 550 local governments across the country that administer federally-supported community and economic development, housing, and human service programs, including programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Since 1968, NCDA has been at the forefront in securing effective and responsive housing and community development programs for local governments. The association provides timely, direct information and technical support to its members on federal housing and community development programs. The association also serves as a national clearinghouse of ideas for local government officials and federal policy-makers on pertinent national issues affecting America's communities.

For more information about the **Danbury Housing Partnership** and the **"Housing For Heroes"** initiative please call Chairman Mark J. Nolan at 203-797-8255 or visit www.danburyhousingpartnership.org

For more information about **NPDCD, Incorporated and Vet House** please call President Paul J. Valeri at 203-792-3888 or visit <http://www.danburysroadhome.org/content/59/212.aspx>.

For more information about the **Housing Authority of the City of Danbury** please call 203-744-2500 or visit www.hacdct.org