PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR BALLARD RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS
DR. JOHN MORTON-FINNEY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard was honored this evening with the Dr. John Morton-Finney Public Service Award by the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis. This prestigious award is presented annually to an honorably discharged Hoosier veteran whose life is marked with continued selfless service to country and community.

“I am truly humbled to be receiving this top honor and to be included among such distinguished past recipients,” said Mayor Ballard. “For me, it was never a choice-- public service was a calling. To be able to serve the citizens of Indianapolis is a privilege. From the moment I took office, I have made it my goal to improve the quality of life for our residents by concentrating my efforts on public safety, infrastructure improvements, education reform, new business development, increase in diversity, and celebration of the rich arts and culture of our city. I am committed to continuing to work to make Indianapolis the most sustainable, livable city in the Midwest.”

Under Mayor Ballard’s leadership the City of Indianapolis has improved services and ways citizens can interact with city government. Additionally, the City has seen opportunities for increased economic development and improvements in education and infrastructure, and a focus on making public safety Job One. Mayor Ballard’s commitment to creating and promoting a culture of inclusiveness is seen through the many outreach efforts in neighborhoods and through increased opportunities for minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned businesses. Under his direction, Mayor Ballard’s administration has invested millions of dollars to improve the quality of life of inner-city residents, their economic prospects and their neighborhoods.

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ABOUT MAYOR GREGORY A. BALLARD
A native Hoosier, Greg Ballard was raised on the Eastside of Indianapolis and is a proud graduate of Cathedral High School. After earning his undergraduate degree in Economics from Indiana University, Ballard entered the U.S. Marine Corps. He was named a Second Lieutenant and then went to Basic School, where he finished in the top 20. The job took him to posts around the country and world from Okinawa, Japan, Detroit, St. Louis, Panama, and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War; and, as a Lieutenant Colonel, Germany. After deciding his children needed to have one hometown, Ballard retired from the Marines in 2001 after 23 years service and being awarded the Legion of Merit. Ballard successfully transitioned to the corporate world, working for several years as North American Operations Manager for Bayer in Indianapolis. He also is the author of The Ballard Rules: Small Unit Leadership.

Prior to becoming the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, Mayor Ballard was seen as an active member of his community, from serving as a tutor and an Advisory Board Member for the Lilly Boys and Girls Club, contributing editor to Indiana Minority Business Magazine and Indiana Parenting Magazine, to founding the Indianapolis Writers Group.

Mayor Ballard served in the Persian Gulf War in the United Marine Corps. After 23 years of service he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and was awarded the Legion of Merit. On November 6, 2007, he was elected as the 48th Mayor of the City of Indianapolis.

Mayor Ballard resides in Pike Township with his wife of 25 years, Winnie. Their children, Greg Jr. and Erica are graduates of Indiana University. Mayor Ballard is proud that despite the many places they have lived throughout his military career, his family still considers Indianapolis their hometown.

ABOUT THE JOHN MORTON-FINNEY AWARD
The award is named for Dr. John Morton-Finney, a former buffalo soldier and World War I veteran. Dr. Morton-Finney served the Indianapolis community as an educator, lawyer, and humanitarian for most of the 20th century and continued to assist his fellow Hoosiers until he died at the age of 107 in 1998. The Award is presented annually at the Veterans Day Banquet with the recipient’s name inscribed on a plaque that is on permanent display in the Indiana World War Memorial.

Past Dr. John Morton-Finney Public Service Award recipients include:

Dr. John Morton-Finney
Congressman Andy Jacobs, Jr.
Dr. Ed Brown
Governor Joseph Kernan
WCBC Senior News Analyst Fred Heckman
Senator Richard Lugar
Major General (Ret) Robert Moorhead
James G. Graham
G. Donald Steel
Dr. Russ Blowers
Mr. Donald Canaday
Mr. Robert Spanogle
Major General (Ret.) Ronald Brooks
Mr. P. E. MacAllister

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