

Monday, May 21, 2010

RUSS CARNAHAN TO ADDRESS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF MEL CARNAHAN HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

Carnahan Will Also Welcome Home Veterans from Iraq, Afghanistan At Soldiers Memorial Event Hosted by St. Louis VA

ST. LOUIS, MO – Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) will deliver the commencement address for the first graduating class of the St. Louis high school named for his father this Saturday, May 22.

“I’ve always felt that there was something so fitting about a school named for my father,” Carnahan said. **“Education was such an important part of who he was as a father and as a leader. It is truly a special honor to be able to celebrate this occasion with the students, family members, and faculty.”**

Since first opening as a middle school in 2003, the Carnahan School of the Future has grown quickly, transitioned in 2006 into a high school with a college-prep focused program that integrates cutting-edge technology into every phase of the curriculum. The school offers several unique programs, including a pre-engineering course through Missouri Science and Technology in Rolla, dual enrollment in mathematics at Harris Stowe State University, and college preparatory opportunities through the Gear Up program and the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

After the commencement address, Carnahan will join St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley and other officials at an annual “Welcome Home” celebration. Over 1,000 Iraq, Afghanistan and other veterans and their families are expected to attend the event, which will take place at the Soldiers Memorial in St. Louis.

“Last month, when I visited with some of our troops serving in Afghanistan, I was humbled by the amazing work they are doing – work that too often goes unreported and unrecognized,” said, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. **“It is our job to make sure those troops have the resources, equipment and support they need to keep themselves safe and get the job done. And that commitment of resources and support must continue when they come home.”**

The St. Louis VA Medical Center has hosted the Celebration annually since 2008 in order to offer enrollment and eligibility services, health and mental health screenings, benefits advice and other services to military personnel and veterans. A wide range of community service agencies specializing in employment and housing assistance, vocational training, spiritual support, family counseling and recreation will be represented.