

**Veterans Commission
Town of Berlin**

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2018

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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - MAY 26, 2018

With a rain date of Monday May 28, 2018

Parade Route and Ceremony at the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park

(Berlin, CT) – This years Memorial Day Parade will start at 9:00 AM at St. Paul’s Church on Peck Street. The parade will continue to Farmington Avenue turning left onto Massirio Drive, passing VFW Post 10732, then a left onto Veterans Way and end at the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park where a Memorial Day Ceremony will take place. Between 9:45 and 10:05 AM. There will be an Invocation by a Friar from St. Paul’s Parish and the Benediction by Pastor Joseph Yang from United Methodist Church. The Berlin High Madrigal Singers, directed by Tyler Boyle, will sing the National Anthem and America the Beautiful. The Berlin High School Redcoat Marching Band, directed by Jeff Sirois, will play a Patriotic Melody and Trumpeters will play Taps. There will be a rifle volley by the joint members of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 10732 and members of the American Legion Post 68.

This year’s guest speaker is Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thomas J. Saadi was confirmed by the Connecticut General Assembly as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs on February 21, 2018. Commissioner Saadi previously served as Acting Commissioner of the Department since October 2017, and prior had served as Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Department. Commissioner Saadi is a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve and also serves on the Danbury City Council.

Prior to beginning his service with the Department of Veterans Affairs in May 2015, Commissioner Saadi served as an Assistant Attorney General and Special Prosecutor litigating numerous cases and supervising investigations to stop false and deceptive practices and recover funds for the State and Connecticut consumers.

Commissioner Saadi received his Commission in the Army Reserve in 2005 and completed Officer Basic training in 2006 and Officer Advanced training in 2014 and Command and General Staff College in 2016 graduating in the top 20% of his class. Prior to his current assignment as Chief Legal Officer of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion Commissioner Saadi served in the 4th Legal Operations Detachment providing legal support at active duty installations domestically and abroad.

He has received several awards and commendations including the Meritorious Service Medal, multiple Army Commendation and Army Achievement medals.

Commissioner Saadi is a graduate of Western Connecticut State University and received his Juris Doctor from Quinnipiac College School of Law (cum laude). He is a member of American Legion Post 60 in Danbury, Catholic War Veterans Post 1042 in Danbury, the 4th JAG Officers Association and is a Life Member of the Reserve Officers Association. He remains active with many civic and social organizations including serving as a Cub Scout Den. Commissioner Saadi lives in Danbury with his wife Valerie Ventura-Saadi and their twin children, Sabrina and Jacob.

In the event of rain on Saturday May 26th, the Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday May 28th. In the event of rain on Monday May 28th, the exercises will be held in the American Legion Post 68 on Porters Pass at 9:00 AM.