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## ***Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise Co-Host PBS' 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Memorial Day Concert on WEDU***

Featuring a Special Performance of the National Anthem  
by Candice Glover the Season 12 Winner of American Idol



**TAMPA, FL (May 21st, 2013)** — Live From the U.S. Capitol, A Night of Remembrance With General Colin Powell, Ed Harris, Chris Mann, Katherine Jenkins and Alfie Boe.

This American tradition will air live on **WEDU**, West Coast Florida's primary PBS station, **Sunday, May 26, 2013**, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol before a concert audience of hundreds of thousands, millions more at home, as well as to our troops serving around the world on the American Forces Network.

On the eve of Memorial Day, the 24th annual **NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT** will bring to life the moving stories of America's servicemen and women who have given so much to preserve America's freedoms. The inspiring television event will pay tribute to the profound heroism of all who served during World War II, salute the valor of our Korean War veterans, and honor the sacrifices of our National Guard heroes and their families.

The multi award-winning program will be co-hosted for the eighth year by Tony Award-winner Joe Mantegna (**CRIMINAL MINDS**) and Emmy

Award-winner Gary Sinise (**CSI:NEW YORK**), two acclaimed actors who have dedicated themselves to veterans causes and supporting our troops in active service. Opening the show, with a special performance of the National Anthem will be Candice Glover, the season 12 winner of **AMERICAN IDOL** who was crowned May 16. The all-star line-up also includes: distinguished American leader Colin L. Powell USA (Ret.); two-time Golden Globe award-winning actor Ed Harris; **DANCING WITH THE STARS** finalist and classical cross-over artist Katherine Jenkins; singer-songwriter and **THE VOICE** finalist Chris Mann; and acclaimed Tony award-winning tenor Alfie Boe; in performance with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of top pops conductor Jack Everly.

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The 2013 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT will feature:

- The moving story of twin brothers who served in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan with the National Guard, that focuses on how multiple deployments tragically can impact both those who serve as well as their family members;
- A tribute to the Greatest Generation featuring the stirring remembrances of decorated World War II veteran Charles Durning, the renowned actor and longtime contributor to the NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT, who passed away last December; and
- On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, the broadcast will honor the profound sacrifices of the proud veterans who fought and perished in this “forgotten war.”

Also participating in the event are the U.S Joint Chiefs of Staff with The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, The U.S. Army Chorus, The Soldiers Chorus of the U.S. Army Field Band, The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters, The U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants, the Armed Forces Color Guard and Service Color Teams provided by the Military District of Washington, D.C. The broadcast will be supported by a comprehensive social media campaign and resource-rich website at [www.pbs.org/memorialdayconcert](http://www.pbs.org/memorialdayconcert). Highlights will include: a “Virtual Wall of Remembrance” where viewers can share tributes to our veterans and fallen heroes; plus suggestions on what you can do to support veterans and their loved ones; as well as resources for service members and their families.

The program is a co-production of Jerry Colbert of Capital Concerts and WETA, Washington, D.C. Executive producer Jerry Colbert and producer Michael Colbert have assembled an award-winning production team that features the top Hollywood talent behind some of television’s most prestigious entertainment awards shows. The team includes: Emmy award-winning producer Walter C. Miller, whose credits include the GRAMMY AWARDS and COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS; and award-winning director Paul Miller whose credits include THE COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS and SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE.

The NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT is made possible by grants from the Lockheed Martin Corporation, the National Park Service, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Department of the Army, General Dynamics, PBS and public television stations nationwide. Air travel is provided by American Airlines.

#### **ABOUT WEDU**

WEDU is West Central Florida’s primary PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station’s website, [wedu.org](http://wedu.org) and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU’s focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (Source: CARAVAN ORC International, January 2013).

For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit [wedu.org](http://wedu.org); WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

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