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CONTACT:

Lisa Siembab
CARSTAR, Berlin
Ph. 860-778-6967
Email:
lisasiembab@prodigy.net

**CARSTAR, Berlin HONORS AMERICA'S VETERANS
With Vehicle Donation**

Berlin, CT (January 3, 2011) – For the past three years, a local veteran has been using his own truck to transport veterans in need of rides, and now CARSTAR, Berlin has stepped up to show its gratitude.

Nearly 40 people, including state Sen. Paul Doyle, watched as employees from CARSTAR, Berlin handed the Newington American Legion Post a set of shiny, silver keys to a minivan last week just before the holidays.

CARSTAR Berlin honored America's active duty military as well, collecting supplies for deployed military personnel in Afghanistan. Several area businesses joined the effort as collection sites for the needed supplies.

Area businesses include: Roger's Market Place, Progressive Insurance Service Centers, PMG Insurance, Hertz Rental Car, and the Berlin Public Library served as collection sites for troop supplies. Mike's Auto Service in Newington donated mechanical services and free oil changes for the life of the vehicle. Lamore's Towing in Wethersfield transported the vehicle during the repair process while other industry partners donated parts and services.

USAA Insurance donated the van that was in need of repairs – and CARSTAR, Berlin restored the van, conducting all the repairs. "It's an honor to be able to give back to our military members and their families who make so many contributions to protect our freedom and way of life," said Lisa Siembab, Director of Business Strategies at CARSTAR, Berlin. After hearing of Linnon's work, she knew she wanted to do something for him.

"We approached our insurance industry partner at the United Services Automobile Association and asked if they would be willing to donate a salvage vehicle," Siembab said. "They immediately responded and provided a van. We recycled it and completely restored it for Linnon and Post 117."

Linnon had been using his personal truck each Thursday to transport veterans, most of whom are homeless or disabled, back and forth to Hartford's South Park Inn, which provides an array of services to veterans.

"I'll have lunch with them and sometimes I bring my laptop to help them with applications," said Linnon, who volunteers a couple of days a week at Post 117. Among other uses, Linnon along with other post members will use the minivan to provide rides to the U.S. Veterans Affairs' hospital in Newington. "The main purpose of the van is veterans outreach," Linnon said. "If they need a ride, I give them a ride."

"This just offers veterans the benefits that they are entitled to," Linnon said. "When you make a difference in these veterans' lives, it's rewarding."

CARSTAR, Berlin is located at 51 Woodlawn Road in Berlin, Connecticut. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 5:30pm. Phone: 860-828-7656 Website: www.carstarBerlin.com

About CARSTAR

The CARSTAR, Berlin facility is part of a franchise group of branded collision repair facilities in North America with over 400 locally owned and operated locations in 30 states and 10 Canadian provinces. CARSTAR is committed to providing consistent quality services to our customers and insurance partners and has repaired more than 2.5 million vehicles since it was founded in 1989. Our technicians and front office staff receive ongoing training to ensure they are qualified to work on any vehicle. Customer satisfaction is our number one priority as we consistently lead the industry in customer satisfaction ratings.

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