



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

Dear Hometown Hero,

On behalf of the elected and appointed officials and the residents of the City of Hartford, I salute your courage and commitment to your family and to your country. As we commemorate this Independence Day, your bravery, heroism and patriotism reminds us that freedom is now free. To express our support and gratitude, Hartford is proud to join capital cities across the country in placing a yellow ribbon to demonstrate our unwavering support.

Founded in 1635, Hartford is one of America's oldest cities. So, we decided to take a page from our history to share our story with you. A yellow ribbon was tied around a Charter Oak tree. Legend has it that the Charter Oak was used to hide Connecticut's Charter from English authorities. The actual Charter Oak tree was destroyed in a storm in the 1800's but its baby still stands proudly in our historic Bushnell Park, as seen in the photos we provided.

On a personal note, as a father and a grandfather, let me say that you are loved more deeply than you will ever know. As Mayor, let me say that you bring hope and opportunity to others both stateside and abroad.

Thank you for your personal sacrifice and unwavering inner strength. Be proud, be positive, but most importantly, be safe.

Be blessed and come home soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Perez".

Eddie A. Perez
Mayor