WJLA’s Leon Harris returns as the 2016 A Night for the Children Gala Master of Ceremonies
AFCEA Bethesda’s Annual charity event dedicated to improving the health, welfare and education of area children

Bethesda, MD – February 16, 2015 – The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Bethesda Chapter, a non-profit focused on fostering industry and federal civilian agency dialogue, partnership and IT innovation, announced today that award-winning journalist Leon Harris will return to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the 18th Annual "A Night for the Children" gala, to be held on April 9, 2016.

Leon Harris anchors the evening newscasts for ABC7/WJLA-TV. Mr. Harris is passionate about improving the lives of children. Harris works with many charitable groups including For Love of Children, Junior Achievement of Greater Washington, Unique Learning Center, March of Dimes and many others. In addition to his work with these groups, Harris airs a weekly segment entitled Harris’ Heroes, which profiles adults helping children or children helping their peers in the DC metro region.

“I look forward to once again participating as Master of Ceremonies for the “Night for the Children” gala,” said Mr. Harris. “The support of these charities is critical to caring for so many children in the immediate Washington DC community—children who won’t otherwise get the support to better their situations, improve their well-being and get much needed services for themselves and their families.”

“We applaud Mr. Harris for once again committing his time and professional expertise to benefit the philanthropic efforts of the federal IT community,” said Tom Anderson, Vice President of Health Services at Science Applications International Corp. (NYSE: SAIC) and Chairman of the 2016 “A Night for the Children” gala. “I look forward to working with Mr. Harris as we continue the gala’s proud tradition of contributing to the health, welfare and education of children who benefit from our chosen charities’ programs.”

This year’s gala will once again benefit the House of Ruth, Hope for Henry Foundation and Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund. The 2016 gala marks the third year of support for House of Ruth, celebrating its fortieth anniversary in 2016, for its work with over 1,000 individuals a year, including children of all ages. More than 250 children are sheltered at the DC House of Ruth as they recover from homelessness and abuse.

The Hope for Henry Foundation improves the lives of children with cancer and other serious illnesses by providing carefully chosen gifts and specially-designed programs to entertain and promote comfort, care and recovery. Since 2003, the Hope for Henry Foundation has served more than 12,000 children at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and Children’s National Medical Center and other hospitals around the country.
and this year, Executive Director, Laurie Strongin, was recognized as People Magazine’s “Hero of the Week” on January 28, 2016.

Also benefitting from the gala, the Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund is a non-profit organization that was founded in October 2003 as a means of providing college grants and financial assistance to the surviving children and spouses of U.S. military service members who have lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

For more information, please visit www.anightforthechildren.org.

ABOUT AFCEA BETHESDA
AFCEA Bethesda, a 501c3 non-profit organization, encourages dialogue and partnership between the federal government and industry to solve today’s most critical IT challenges. Through widely attended events, AFCEA Bethesda strives to foster better inter-agency communication, share best practices, identify mission-critical issues and management approaches, and increase engagement with industry IT solution and service providers. www.afceabethesda.org.

AFCEA Bethesda is the civilian-focused Chapter of AFCEA International. With more than 130 Chapters worldwide, AFCEA is a membership organization dedicated to increasing knowledge through the exploration of issues relevant to its members in information technology, communications and electronics for defense, homeland security and intelligence communities. www.afcea.org.

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