

**Paula Hand - Rep. Semmel's Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****June 4, 2004****U.S. Marine Forces Reserve Band Performs at Forum**

**HARRISBURG** - At the invitation of Rep. Paul Semmel (R-Lehigh/Berks), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, the U.S. Marine Forces Reserve Band will give a **free** concert on **Thursday, June 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Forum Auditorium on the grounds of the Capitol.**

The committee, in cooperation with the PA Department of the Marine Corps League--PW Milano Detachment arranged the event that is open to the public.

"We thought this would be a great way to encourage continued support of our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan," Semmel said. "Following on the heels of Memorial Day and D-Day ceremonies and leading up to the observance of Flag Day on June 14, we deemed it very appropriate to provide a concert of patriotic music for all to enjoy.

"Central Pennsylvanians are in for a special evening of musical entertainment that will include familiar marches, traditional classics, patriotic favorites, New Orleans jazz, and popular contemporary music," he added.

The Marine Forces Reserve Band - New Orleans was established on Oct. 1, 1978. Under the operational control of Marine Forces Reserve, the unit is comprised of active duty Marines stationed at the Naval Support Activity Base in New Orleans.

It is composed of a Ceremonial and Concert Band, Jazz Combo, and Brass and Woodwind Quintets.

The band supports all units of the Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing, Fourth Marine Division, Force Service Support Group, and Marine Corps Reserve Support Command.

"Additionally, these marines are often called upon to provide musical entertainment in support of Marine Corps Recruiting and community relations programs," Semmel said.

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With an authorized strength of 50 active duty Marines, the Band has performed at many recognized civilian events, including the Indianapolis 500 races, the Boston Marathon, the Texas and Wisconsin State Fairs, the Fiesta Days Celebration in San Antonio, Flag Day Celebrations in Troy, NY, and Fourth of July celebrations playing with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and at St. Louis's famous Arch. The band also performs annually in New Orleans Mardi Gras balls and parades.

"I encourage residents in the greater Harrisburg area to join us on June 10 at the Forum at 6:30 p.m. for an enjoyable and stimulating evening of music," Semmel said.

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