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Iowa Capitol Planning Commission Kicks Off Fundraising for Monuments at The Des Moines Symphony's 24th Annual Yankee Doodle Pops Concert

For Immediate Release:

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(Des Moines, Iowa) People enjoying the Des Moines Symphony's Yankee Doodle Pops Concert on July 3, 2017, at the Iowa Capitol will also have an opportunity to help preserve part of Iowa history by making a donation to repair and restore monuments on the Capitol Complex. The Iowa Capitol Planning Commission is beginning its fundraising effort for the monuments at Yankee Doodle Pops in collaboration with the Des Moines Symphony. A short presentation about the monuments and the need for their repair will run before the popular concert, and concert-goers will be able to donate to the monument fund at a tent staffed by volunteers and located on Finkbine Drive during the event.

In 2016, the Iowa Legislature authorized a public-private approach to the pressing need for monument conservation and established a matching grant appropriation of up to \$100,000. The appropriation includes a two-to-one match, meaning for every \$2 raised in private donations, the Legislature has appropriated \$1 to help care for the monuments. "We are grateful for the appropriation from the Legislature. We are also grateful that the Des Moines Symphony is giving us the opportunity to reach the audience at the Yankee

Doodle Pops concert about the need for donations for the monuments,” said Bill

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Dikis, chairman of the Capitol Planning Commission.

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There are 44 sculptures, fountains, and memorial tablets on the grounds of the

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State Capitol honoring people and events important to Iowa history. Monuments

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built after 1984 each have an endowment fund dedicated to their conservation.

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Some of the monuments built before that time need funds for conservation

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because the elements and time have taken a toll on even the most durable of

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materials such as concrete and bronze.

“We are asking for the public’s help in ensuring these monuments, fountains,

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and memorials will remain intact for future generations,” said Dikis.

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Monuments in need of repair include the Soldiers and Sailors monument on the

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south side of the Capitol and the Bicentennial Fountain on the west side of the

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Capitol. “We ask those who attend the Des Moines Symphony’s Yankee Doodle

Pops concert this year to consider making a donation at the tent on Finkbine

Drive,” Dikis continued. Those who are not able to attend the concert can make

a check out to: Monument Restoration Fund

Iowa Department of Administrative Services

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