FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Participants in 35th ANNUAL 9NEWS PARADE OF LIGHTS December 4th and 5th

The 9NEWS Parade of Lights, presented by American Furniture Warehouse and GO Automotive Group**,** will again warm the streets of Downtown with holiday cheer. Since 1975, the parade has dazzled roughly 375,000 people annually over the course of its two night run. On Friday, December 4th at 8 p.m., and Saturday, December 5th at 6 p.m. viewers will delight in:

- three giant balloons
- eleven brilliantly lit floats
- eight high school marching bands and the
- Colorado State University Marching Band
- beautiful horse drawn carriages
- entertaining performances by a number of talented participants

Balloons

Three giant helium balloons will tower over crowds this year, including the parade's penguin mascot, a playful puppy with a newspaper and a red nosed reindeer.

Floats

The Parade's eleven breathtaking floats are always an annual hit, and this year will include the following: Carousel, Christmas Story, Clock Tower, Elves and the Shoemaker, Gingerbread House, Jewelry Box Treasures, Mountain Magic, The Nutcracker, Toy Box Friends and Santa Claus. The sparkling Ship of Lights float will also light up the night, adorned entirely in energy efficient LED lights.

Live Music and Performance

Eight of the best high school marching bands in the state will showcase their talents and compete for honors in Humana's street parade competition, recognizing bands for both their holiday lighting presentation and music and marching abilities.

Participating bands include Arapahoe High School Warrior Marching Band, Denver Citywide Marching Band, Greeley High School Wildcat Marching Band, Lakewood High School Bengal Regiment, Legacy High School Lightning Marching Band, Littleton High School Lion Pride Marching Band, Mountain Range High School Mustang Marching Band and Overland High School Marching Trailblazers

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Presented by

American Furniture Warehouse
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Colorado State University's Marching Band, the first collegiate marching band to perform in the Parade of Lights, will include 240 outstanding performers, the largest band to ever appear in the parade.

This year's 9NEWS Parade of Lights is proud to celebrate the **cultural and ethnic diversity** of the region by featuring Colorado Mestizo Dancers, Denver Taiko, Grupo Folklorico Semblanza de Mexico, and the Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu Association**.**

In addition, **special performers** will enliven the parade every step of the way, including performances by Belliston Academy, Colorado Fire Tribe, Colorado School of Dance Gold Medal Pom Team, and Revive Christian Dance Studio. Peak Academy of Dance and State of the Arts Studio for Dance and the Performing Arts will also participate.

Colorado sports team mascots will get into the spirit of the season too! Join Rocky from the Denver Nuggets, Dinger from the Colorado Rockies, Miles from the Denver Broncos, Bernie from the Colorado Avalanche, Wooly from with Colorado Mammoth, Stix from the Denver Outlaws, and the four Colorado Rapids mascots; Edson the Eagle, Marco Van Bison, Jorge el Mapache and Franz the Fox, as they greet spectators along the parade route.

Some of our favorite animals will make an appearance in the Parade. New this year will be the **Samoyed Dogs** from the Denver Samoyed Association. Returning to the parade to celebrate Colorado's western heritage will be the authentic Wells Fargo stagecoach and **The Westernaires**.

Also featured in the parade are the **Black Hawk Fire Department, Denver Firefighters Local 858,** the **Denver Sheriff's Honor Guard**, and a giant video screen featuring images of Downtown's seasonal events and performances. With its cast of thousands, the 35th annual 9NEWS Parade of Lights continues to be spectacular in its entertainment and dazzling lights!

2009 Parade of Lights Grand Marshal

Jake Jabs, President of American Furniture Warehouse and lifelong philanthropist, has been named the 2009 Grand Marshal for the 9NEWS Parade of Lights. Children representing the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Easter Seals Colorado—two organizations to which Jabs has donated time and resources—will accompany him in his stagecoach as he rides in the Parade both nights.

Parade Viewing Information

Admission along the two-mile parade route is FREE, and grandstand seats in front of the City & County Building are still available for purchase. The parade starts at the City & County Building at 14th Avenue and Bannock Street and continues to Tremont Place, 17th Street, Arapahoe Street and 15th Street. Visit the Parade of Lights web site at www.DenverParadeofLights.com for more information on the Parade route and grandstand seating.

*The 35th Annual **9NEWS Parade of Lights**, presented by **American Furniture Warehouse** and **GO Automotive Group**, takes place Friday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.*

In addition to 9NEWS, American Furniture Warehouse and GO Automotive Group, additional sponsors for the Parade include Associate Sponsor Humana, and Supporting Sponsors AfterOurs

Urgent Care, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado State University, The Crazy Merchant, Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc., Faith Bible Chapel and the Archdiocese of Denver, HICO Distributing of Colorado, KeyBank, Mobile View, Stay the Trail, Wells Fargo and Xcel Energy. Media sponsors are The Denver Post and KOSI 101.1, 99.5 The Mountain, Alice 105.9 and Studio1430 KEZW AM.

The Parade is produced by Downtown Denver Events, Inc. (DDE). DDE is the Downtown Denver Partnership family's community events non-profit organization that organizes and promotes public parades, festivals, concerts, exhibits and other events within the downtown Denver area.

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