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**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – Uncle Sam will lead the festivities in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Patriotic Celebration to be held at The Harbour School at Annapolis (THS) at 10:15 am on Monday July 9, 2007.

The parade is the culmination of the first week of school for more than 160 students with learning disabilities, High Functioning Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and other disabilities like ADD/ADHD served by the school. Esther Adams, Curriculum Coordinator at the Annapolis campus explains, "We started the celebration 4 years ago with two goals in mind – first to provide a means for students to study and explore American history and culture, and secondly to create a fun, team building activity to round out the first week of school." Each year classroom studies and preparation of a dramatic, and sometimes-comical skits, songs or floats, are guided by a theme, and this year is no different. Students' research and skits will be guided by the theme "Moments of Courage"

Dr. Linda Jacobs, THS Founder and Executive Director explained, "Because of our students' diverse and complex needs our school is open 11 months of the year and our students know their neighbors and sometimes even their brothers and sisters are still on vacation. Whenever we can, we develop instructional approaches that incorporate fun expressions of the curriculum. More than anything our students learn by doing; and, they are more likely to retain that knowledge when it is associated with an enjoyable learning experience."

The rules for student demonstrations are simple and strict. They must connect their skit, float or songs to the theme, demonstrate creativity and originality, and must draw from actual moments in American History. Prizes will be awarded to those classes who best portray the theme, those who are most creative, and the most patriotic.

**The Harbour School**, a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit school, is a unique educational organization providing supportive, caring, and individualized education to students with learning and other disabilities from kindergarten through twelfth grade by assisting each child to attain academic, personal achievement, and success commensurate with the child's abilities. Two campuses in Annapolis and in Baltimore provide a highly individualized education to more than 260 students from 14 school systems within Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia.

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Pictures available upon request call 410-733-1514 or email [speacock@harbourschool.org](mailto:speacock@harbourschool.org)  
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