



Attn: Public Relations Manager

August 26, 2009

Garrison Carida® is a Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia based *Star Wars* costuming group founded in May 1999. This group consists of individuals that show their love for *Star Wars* by wearing detailed replica costumes of such favorite characters as Darth Vader, Stormtroopers, Scout Troopers, Snow Troopers, Bounty Hunters, etc. The members of Garrison Carida routinely attend local science fiction conventions, parades, blood drives, toy stores, community fundraisers, and make appearances at several charity events. Their charity events include 8 annual visits to local hospitals including: Children's Hospital Philadelphia, A.I. Dupont Children's Hospital, Shriner's Children's Hospital, West Virginia University Children's Hospital, St. Christopher's Children's Hospital, Janet Weiss Children's Hospital, and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Garrison Carida's members are aware of the need to give back to the community and they have dedicated themselves to helping wherever and whenever they are needed. At our hospital visits, children receive *Star Wars* toys and coloring books that are collected through donations and toy drives. Whether raising awareness for literacy, walking in a Relay for Life, joining hands for multiple sclerosis, or helping support local firefighters and law enforcement, our members hold true to the Carida motto - "First to advance...Last to retreat!".

Garrison Carida is part of a larger world-wide organization called the 501st Stormtrooper Legion (<http://www.501stlegion.org>). The 501st Legion is the world's definitive Imperial costuming organization. No matter where you live, the power of "Vader's Fist" can be felt through professionally organized charity, fundraising, and promotional events feature the "bad guys" of *Star Wars*. The ranks of the 501st Legion span the entire United States and over 35 countries world-wide, with membership over 4300 and increasing on a daily basis. The main mission of all members is to have fun and bring joy to the multitudes of *Star Wars* fans throughout the world, while also promoting *Star Wars* to a new generation. Actor David Prowse (the man who donned the mask of Darth Vader for all three original movies) holds the position of Official Honorary Leader of the 501st Legion. Membership in the 501st is completely voluntary and the sole requirement to join is a passion for *Star Wars* and a realistic costume. Garrison Carida and the 501st Legion operate as non-profit, volunteer-based organizations and do not charge fees to make appearances.

With the release of the "Prequel Trilogy" and "*The Clone Wars*", as well as the renewed love for the "Original Trilogy", Garrison Carida has been busy promoting many events in the PA, DE, and WV areas. Garrison Carida also made an appearance at the *Star Wars* Celebration II and III conventions held in Indianapolis, IN as well as Celebration IV in Los Angeles. *Star Wars* creator George Lucas extended an invitation to all 501st members to attend the conventions in uniform and donate their services to make the celebrations a unique and

grand experience for all *Star Wars* fans. Mr. Lucas also requested the 501st's presence in the 2008 Rose Bowl Parade in which he was the Grand Marshall. Mr. Lucas also accepted an Honorary Membership into the 501st in 2005. On a local level, Garrison Carida marches in the Mummer's Day parade in Philadelphia on New Year's Day each year. In 2006, Garrison Carida inducted Billy Dee Williams (Lando Calrissian in *Star Wars Ep: V and VI*) as an honorary member of the 501st Legion.

Garrison Carida is ready, willing, and able to accept any missions that will benefit the community within the PA, DE, and WV areas. Feel free to contact Garrison Carida in order to schedule an appearance. Please visit the web links on this page to learn more, or contact one of the group's officers listed below.

Thank you and...May the force be with you!

Contact Information:

<p>Jason Romanoff Commanding Officer TK/TB-9141 FETUp73@aol.com 610-587-2898</p>	<p>Rob Thomas Executive Officer/ Events Coordinator Membership Liaison/ Academy Commandant TK-1495 TK1495@aol.com 717-249-5796</p>	<p>Kristi Haney Public Relations Officer TK-2257 Kristi.haney@gmail.com 814-577-4709</p>	<p>Ryan Sachse Captain of the Guard TB-5779 sithscout@hotmail.com 717-779-0767</p>
<p>Andrew Parmet Web Master General TB-5918 Andrew@parmet.org 610-704-3870</p>	<p>Garrison Carida http://www.501stgarrisoncarida.org/</p>		<p>The 501st Imperial Legion http://www.501stlegion.org/</p>



The 501st Legion is a worldwide *Star Wars* costuming organization comprised of and operated by *Star Wars* fans.

While it is not sponsored by Lucasfilm Ltd., it is Lucasfilm's preferred Imperial costuming group.

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