



NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of Mayor Thomas P. Schneider

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 20, 2016

“THE 2016 VETERANS’ DAY PARADE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13”

The 2016 Veterans' Parade will be held on **Sunday, November 13** beginning at 1:00 p.m. according to Mayor Thomas P. Schneider.

This year's Parade Marshal is Pat Stinnett, who was last year's Veteran of the Year winner. Tony Colombo from FM News Talk 97.1 will be the emcee. The guest speaker this year will be Frank J. Mantia. Frank began his military career in October of 1970 serving in the United States Army prior to retiring from active duty in May of 2000 his last assignment was serving as a CSM for the Space and Missile Defense Command from February 1998 to March of 2000. Frank proudly served his country and was awarded numerous awards and decorations which included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and many more. Frank is completely retired and spends his time volunteering with the Missouri USO and is chairperson for the Gateway Chapter 82nd Airborne Association.

John F. Demos (goes by Frank) has been named 2016 Florissant Veteran of the Year. Frank began his military career in the United States Army in 1965. He completed his Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. In July of 1967 he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa, Vietnam. Soon the 173rd moved to An Khe, in central Highlands of Vietnam it was there where he saw combat. After leaving the military Frank moved to Florissant in 1985 with his family. Realizing the need for a VVA Chapter and with the help of another Vietnam Vet in 1995 the VVA Chapter 794 was established. Frank has served as President several times and in his first term he and the members of VVA Chapter added to the Vietnam War Memorial monument at Koch Park more names of soldiers killed in Vietnam from the Florissant-Hazelwood area. In 2003, Frank was President again and the VVA Chapter 794 was instrumental in bringing the Vietnam Moving Wall to Florissant.

A totally new route will be used for the Veteran Day Parade on **Sunday, November 13th**. Parade participants will assemble and start the parade at Bangert Park and precede North on Florissant Road and then turn left on St. Francois and end the parade at the VFW where the ceremony will take place to honor the 2016 Veteran of the Year.

This event was the suggestion of Mr. Norman Sirna, a member of the Veterans' Commission. Mayor Schneider and the City Council invite everyone to bring their children/grandchildren to this event and salute the men and women who have and continue to serve this great country in Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.