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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE 18TH YEAR OF THE VETERANS DAY PARADE

The day was picture perfect and scores of people lined up along Rue St. Francois for the 18th year of the Florissant Veterans Day Parade. Thank you to the St. Louis County Veterans Coalition and VFW Post 4105 for hosting another spectacular event and to all the military organizations that were present. This year had a record number of over fifty units that participated in the parade. Ryan Wiggins FM 97.1 Radio Personality gave the play-by-play in front of City Hall as the units passed in review with this year's Grand Marshal leading the way. She was last year's Veteran of the Year and current acting Commander of the St Louis County Veterans Coalition, retired Air Force CMSgt Lucia Greer.

The parade ended at VFW Post 4105 where over 200 people were on hand for the ceremony & festival. The Emcee for the ceremony was Marc Cox from 97.1's the Marc Cox Show and from KSDK channel 5 Today in St. Louis, Rene Knott was the Guest Speaker. Mayor Tim Lowery was invited to give the opening remarks and announce the 2021 Veteran of the Year, Navy Veteran John Daab. State Representative Gretchen Bangert presented a Resolution from the Missouri House of Representatives recognizing John as the 2021 Veteran of the Year.

John served on the USS Iwo Jima LPH-2 an amphibious assault ship with 1800 Navy and Marine personnel from 1967 to 1968, during the TET Offensive. Their mission was to land Marines where fighting was occurring and medevac casualties numbering over 600 wounded. After his time in service John became a staunch supporter of Veteran causes and was one of the founding fathers of the local Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 794 and served as Charter President. He has also served as a past Commander of VFW Post 4105, Operations Manager at the USO of Missouri at Lambert Airport and even after retirement continued to volunteer at the USO. John also served as committee chairman for Boy Scout Troop 749.

Also, thank you to Chief Tim Fagan and the men and women of the police department, Florissant Valley Fire Protection District Chief Jason Hoevelmann and the members of the Fire Department, Park Maintenance staff and Health Department staff that were on hand as well. Thank you to Mann Meats and Amore Pizza that provided food for purchase at the event as well as Weekend Soundtrack & Illuminate Entertainment for the festival music.

Mayor Lowery wanted to thank everyone that came out to give their support to all of our Veterans. The event was an absolute success. We are and will always be Florissant Veteran Strong!