



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE 2023 VETERANS DAY PARADE

The day was picture perfect and scores of people lined up along St. Francois Street for the 2023 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. Over fifty units participated in the parade. Chris Miller from FM 93.3 a radio personality gave the play-by-play in front of City Hall as the units passed in review with this year's Grand Marshal Ron Scanlon leading the way. He was last year's Veteran of the Year and is now the past Commander of the VFW Post 4105.

The parade ended at VFW Post 4105 where over 200 people were on hand for the ceremony & festival. The Emcee for the ceremony was Navy Veteran Brian Neives from FM 93.3 Talk Radio and the Guest Speaker was retired Air Force Colonel Buff Burkle, who survived a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. Mayor Tim Lowery was invited to give the opening remarks and announced the 2023 Florissant Veteran of the Year, Ron Finck who was honored posthumously. Receiving the award was Ron's widow Donna Finck.

Ron was career Navy serving the United States for 27 years and retired as Senior Chief Petty Officer serving at one point at Camp David on a Presidential detail. President Bush wanted to play horseshoes and the only partner volunteering to "throw" with the President was Ron. He loved his military service as well as VFW Post 4105 where he has volunteered and been a distinguished ambassador for 28 years.

Ron served in Okinawa, Spain, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Africa, Israel, Vladivostok and Italy. While in Italy Ron had his rosary blessed by the Pope. During Desert Storm Ron served on the USS Princeton and previously served on the USS Eisenhower and the USS Glover.

Ron worked for St. Louis County C.A.R.E. and transferred into being a police aide for the St. Louis County Police Department. Ron loved the Cardinals, college football and especially his Ohio State Buckeyes. Helping other veterans was a priority for Ron to get whatever they needed.

Ron is survived by his loving wife of 42 years; Donna Finck (nee Fisher); by his son Jeff (Dr. Katie Jackson) Finck and daughter Kimi Finck; loving grandfather of Veronica Finck and Charlie Finck. Dear brother and brother-in-law of Bob (Kari) Finck, Gloria Finck, Diane Boetcher, Debbie (Mike) "Goody" Goodfellow and Brian (Penny Maxwell) Finck. Cherished uncle, great-uncle, cousin and friend to many.

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.

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!



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