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NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

**A PLAQUE DEDICATION FOR THE LATE JOHN ORTWIG
IS SET FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH IN FRONT OF 618 RUE ST. FRANCOIS**



27 November 1940 – 20 July 2019

Mayor Lowery is pleased to announce that the City along with Old Town Partners will be hosting a plaque dedication to unveil a plaque in honor of the late John Ortwig. This will be the 42nd Walk through History plaque in honor of someone who has made valuable contributions to the City of Florissant. The plaque dedication will be held on Friday, October 11th at 5:30 p.m. in front of 618 rue St. Francois.

John A. Ortwig was a member of the Greater North County Chamber (GNCC) since 1987 and in 2015 was recognized as the Outstanding Business Person of the Year at the GNCC annual dinner.

John and his wife Lynda Ortwig were married for 26 years had a family of 6 children, 18 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. John was the owner of Florissant Glass Company which he started in 1972 and owned the Old Town Wedding Chapel in Historic Florissant that he bought in 1990.

John moved to Florissant in 1949 when he was 8 years old. In 1958 John was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus as a Chief Squire. John also played softball and would spend a lot of time with the Florissant Elks and would help with barbeques and other community related events.

At the time John saw all the good the Florissant Elks were doing for the community and he officially joined the Florissant Elks in 1969. As a member he would take on the role as the trustee in which he did for 18 years and would also serve as Chairman of the Trustees. John was a two-time receiver of the Citizen of the Year Award and in 2014 was Elk of the Year.

As a member of the Elks John worked tirelessly and would lend his assistance to build floats for the Valley of Flowers parade, he worked with DARE and helped with the robot that was used in the DARE program. He also ran the Hoop Shoot and was in charge of bingo at the Elks Lodge. John also served on the building committee and was instrumental when the Elks built their lodge in 1983 at 16400 New Halls Ferry Road.

John Ortwig was a member and served on the Board of Old Town Partners where he served as Vice-President for four years. John also lent his time and served on the committee for the Florissant Fall Festival for 15 years and chaired the Old Town Partners Pancake Breakfast for over 10 years. Every holiday for 40 years, John has put up and taken down the American Flag for every holiday, from Florissant Road to St. Ferdinand Street.

For over 30 years John had sponsored baseball and softball teams to give youth a chance to excel and enjoy sports. John had participated in community programs such as veterans support, elderly care, providing food baskets for the poor and given unselfish contributions of his time. Family, Friends and Florissant was his life.

In honor of John his family will continue John's tradition of putting up the flags on St. Francois for all the holidays.