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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

**RECORD TURNOUT FOR "2019 VETERANS'
DAY PARADE & PRESENTATION"**



On Sunday, November 10th a record crowd of parade goers with temperatures in the mid-60s came out to see the spectacular 2019 Veterans' Parade followed by the presentation of the Veteran of the Year award that was held on at the VFW Post 4105 on rue St. Francois where the parade concluded.

This year's Veteran of the Year award went to Lewis G. Bouwman. Lewis entered active duty in January of 1994 and was stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky. He was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division as an Infantryman with the 327th Infantry Regiment. He completed Air Assault School and Jungle Warfare School at Fort Sherman in Panama where he earned an Expert Infantry Badge.

In 1997 he became a reserve with the National Guard as a Military Police Officer and a Drill Instructor with the 95th Division. In December of 1999 he was hired by the St. Louis County Police Department where he is currently an investigator with the St. Louis County Special Response Unit and is also a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team.

He was deployed in 2007 to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a Squad Leader and Convoy Commander with over 200 combat missions. He has received numerous awards including Army Commendation Medals and the Combat Action Badge. He retired from military service in 2010.

Welcoming remarks and Master of Ceremonies was Tony Colombo from FM News Talk 97.1. This year's Guest Speaker was SGM US Army (Ret.) Carl Hargus, Director, Service to Veterans – MO Veterans Commission (Ret.). Mayor Lowery addressed the crowd with remarks and spoke about how the Veterans are the cornerstone of our great city and we will never stop paying our respect and honoring the men and woman that served our country with pride, commitment and dedication.

The Mayor would like thank the VFW Post 4105 and the St. Louis County Veterans' Coalition for organizing another successful Veterans' Day Parade, all the participants that participated and to all the people that came out to watch the parade and attended the award presentations of this year's Veteran of the Year.

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