

VETERANS' DAY PARADE
IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE
Tuesday, October 16, 2021

Contact: Bill Desmarais, Sen. V. Cmdr.
Fall River War Veterans' Council

Robert Viner, Commander of the Fall River War Veterans' Council announces that there will be a Veterans' Day Parade in the City of Fall River on Thursday, November 11th, Veterans' Day. The City of Fall River and the Fall River War Veterans Council have partnered to honor and pay tribute to our Veterans with a fantastic parade and Veterans' Day Celebration at Battleship Cove following the parade. They invite everyone to come out, pay your respects, and enjoy the entire event from the Parade to Battleship Cove activities. Anyone wanting to participate as a Parade Unit, a vendor at the Battleship, or just want to watch the parade wanting information are directed to contact Senior Vice Commander Bill Desmarais at 508 951 6847 or the City's Veterans' Service Officer, Micaila Brito at 508 324 2438.

The parade will form up at the furthest eastern point of Pleasant Street, just north of Eastern Ave, at the Bedford Street intersection. It will step off at 1:00 pm, and proceed west down Bedford Street to Battleship Cove. COVID restrictions have been eased but we are encouraging everyone to practice their own individual health precautions. At the end of the parade the Battleship will host a Celebration of America and Veterans with live music and activities for the entire family.

The Parade, will be comprised of both walking and riding participants. There will be marching bands, involving Military themed Marching bands, School Marching Bands, Jazz Bands and the 60's Music band WOLF GANG, who will be performing the music of the 60s and 70s, military vehicles, a Battleship float, a Vietnam Memorial Wall float, a contingent of Horses and Riders and walking equestrians. Veteran Motorcycle Riders and independent Motorcycle Clubs, as well as antique vehicles and other participating civic and social organizations.

Fall River Police Department Chief Jeff Cardoza, with the Police Department's Motorcycle Unit, Honor Guard, and other Police units will participate in the parade, along with Fall River Fire Department Chief John Lynch with some of our city's giant Fire Fighting Ladder Trucks, Firemen, and other safety vehicles. Sheriff Thomas Hodgson and the Bristol County Sheriff's Department will be participating as well with their Mobile Command Center, Deputy Sheriffs, specialized K-9 Units, Crime Control K-9s, Drug Detection K-9s, and the only one of its kind in the country, COVID Detection K-9s. The Department of Community Maintenance and other departments are planning parade entries as well.

Military Veteran organizations making up the Fall River War Council such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars 464, American Legion Post 60, Disabled American Veterans, Wm. S. Greene Chapter 9, Italian American Veterans, Lebanese American Veterans, Portuguese American

Veterans, TIN CAN SAILORS Association and Museum, the Marine Corps League, the Veterans' Kitchen at Corky Row, the Vietnam Memorial Wall Float, and many other veterans' groups will be part of the parade.

The parade's five divisions will lead off with Gold Star Families, and the parade Grand Marshall, Commander Robert Viner will lead Fall River's Veterans' organizations along with their Auxiliary Units. They will be joined by the Durfee BMC ROTC Program, the BMC Durfee Marching Band, Swansea's Case High Marching Band, the Bay State Marching Band, the Fall River Young Marines, and other social and civic organizations. Horses, Veterans Association of Bristol County, Rolling Thunder, as well as the Combat Motorcycle Club, and the Elks Veterans' Motorcycle Club joined by other motorcycle riders paying tribute to America and our Veterans.

As the parade travels down Bedford Street, we encourage you to wave your American Flag, display a picture of your Veterans, or say Thank You to our Veterans. When the American Flag passes by your position, we urge you to show your respect by standing, saluting, or clapping. It should be clarified that if you are wearing a cap of any kind, even if you are not a Veteran, to salute as our flag passes by. Fall River's men and women have always stepped up and served our country when needed, so be sure to show your Fall River Pride in America and for our Veterans during the parade.

When the parade arrives at Battleship Cove there will be FREE HOT CHOCOLATE provided by the Fall River Family Picnic Grove Committee, FREE BAGS of M&Ms provided by Sandy Dennis and the Cultural Society, FREE POPCORN courtesy of the Battleship Massachusetts and more surprises. There will be a large selection of vendors with food products, beverages and all kinds of other items to purchase. For Veterans' Day all Veterans and spouses with Military Dependent I.D. cards will have FREE ADMISSION to the Battleship, all other ships, and the museum. Others are asked to make a small donation to the Battleship's helicopter restoration program.

There will be a brief speaking program at the parade's conclusion, followed by the live band music of WOLF GANG, also DJ Chris with Karaoke, and other fun activities for the entire family. Our Veterans served and sacrificed so that we would be able to enjoy the freedoms of America. This Veterans' Day, we invite you to join us, have some fun and enjoy these freedoms.

Whether you are a private business, an elected official or candidate, or a civic or social organization you are invited to join us as a parade entry, but all vehicles should carry a sign or banner paying tribute to our veterans. We can also be reached by Email pd2071@aol.com