



Midwest City Veterans Day Parade returns

Nov. 11 event will include flyovers, floats, car clubs and tribute to Vietnam veterans

Midwest City will host its annual Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.

This year's event will honor those who served in the Vietnam War with a theme of "Welcome Home, Vietnam Vets"

The parade starts at 11 a.m. and includes floats, car clubs, marching bands, flyovers and more. The parade route begins at Century Blvd. and SE 15th St. and travels east to Douglas Blvd. and north to Reno Ave. The route ends at Morris McGee Dr. and Reno Ave.

Midwest City planned to give special recognition to Vietnam veterans during last year's event, but it was canceled due to COVID-19.

"We want to give them a welcome home they never got," said Midwest City Mayor Matt Dukes. "Vietnam vets were not welcomed home with parades or good tidings, they were welcomed home by being spit

on and told not to wear their uniforms off base. It was just a tumultuous time for our country. And they deserve a welcome home just like anyone else serving our country."

Retired Col. Charles B. "Chuck" DeBellevue and retired Maj. Ed Pulido will serve as the grand marshal.

DeBellevue is America's top ace of the Vietnam War and the last ace to serve on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. He was the first selected as an Eagle by Air Command and Staff College's Gathering of Eagles in 1988 and subsequently honored in 2002, 2003, 2008, and 2010, respectively. His decorations include the Air Force Cross, three Silver Stars, three Legions of Merit, and six Distinguished Flying Crosses.

In 2015, DeBellevue received the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in

Washington, DC. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor Congress can bestow on behalf of the American people.

Pulido is the Vice President of the Folds of Honor Foundation a Veteran's charity which provides the spouses and children of the fallen and wounded educational scholarships. Additionally, he is the Founder of Warriors for Freedom a leadership institute focused on the mental, physical and holistic recovery of our wounded warriors and their families.

Pulido is the Founder of Patriots for Warriors and Warrior Nation, a company focused on the rights of liberty, freedom and patriotism. He attained the rank of Major in his 19-year military career and on May 16, 2005, he was medically retired from the U.S. Army.

He has received countless awards including the prestigious Disabled American

Veteran of the Year Award, the Hero's award from the American Red Cross, the Reaching our City Award, OKC Thunder/Devon Energy Community Hero Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Veteran Patient Award. Additionally, he has received the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award for national and state level service and the Tuskahoma Brown Miller Award for outstanding leadership.

The city is also seeking volunteers to help carry flags in the parade. Any local organizations or civic groups interested in helping can email specialevents@midwestcityok.org.

The parade is hosted by the City of Midwest City and the Midwest City Chamber of Commerce.

Midwest City was forced to cancel the parade the last three years due to weather and the pandemic.