

2025 Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade
SALUTING VIETNAM VETERANS



NEWS RELEASE

Vets Day Parade Grand Marshal Announced

Decorated Vietnam War veteran Army CW4 (Ret.) Doug Petersen will be the grand marshal for this year's Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade, according to the event organizer – the Tarrant County Veterans Council (TCVC).

Chief Petersen saved hundreds of lives during the war as a “Dustoff” – a helicopter pilot trained for medical evacuation missions during combat. The term refers to the radio call sign used by these units and serves as an acronym for "Dedicated Unhesitating Service To Our Fighting Forces," according to the DUSTOFF Assn. Pilots like Petersen operated in dangerous conditions, flying into combat zones to retrieve and transport wounded soldiers to medical facilities.

After Vietnam, the chief continued to serve more than 20 years in the U.S. Army. Last year Petersen received the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress – the Congressional Gold Medal – for his heroic actions in Southeast Asia during the war. His other military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, 21 Air Medals, and the Army Commendation medal.

“Saluting Vietnam Veterans” is the theme of this year's parade set to step off on Tuesday, November 11 (Election Day), at 11 a.m. Participants will form up in the Panther Island Pavilion parking lot, march to the Tarrant County Courthouse and through downtown Fort Worth as part of the celebration.

In support of the Nation's decade-long Vietnam War recognition, the City of Fort Worth will host, and TCVC will again organize the annual parade.

“Everyone can join our Vietnam veterans salute, as well as those military veterans who have, are and will continue to make great contributions,” notes TCVC President Dan Zmroczek. “Simply visit our website where you can learn how to support, volunteer, and take part.

“Will you consider joining this year's festivities?” Zmroczek asks. “If you're not available, please help us spread the word. A parade poster's available online to download and distribute. Hope y'all can join us in saluting Vietnam veterans.”

Fort Worth's annual Veterans Day celebration began more than 100 years ago as an armistice procession through downtown in 1919 to honor those who had fought in World War I.

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Parade website: <https://www.fw2025parade.org>
Vietnam War commemoration: <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com>
Army website: <https://www.army.mil/vietnamwar/index.html#explorefurther>
DoD commemoration website: <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/vietnam-War>

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