



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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Press Release

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Travis County and the City of Austin Host the 2012 Veterans Day Parade Downtown Austin November 11th

AUSTIN – This Veterans Day, Travis County and the City of Austin will be hosting the 2012 Veterans Day Parade honoring Veterans of Texas with a special tribute to Vietnam era Veterans in downtown Austin. The event kicks-off at 9:00 AM from the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge and proceeds up to the Texas State Capitol.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Day National Committee, has selected Travis County and the City of Austin as a National Regional Site for this 2012 Veterans Day celebration. This marks America's 59th Annual Veterans Day event. A special flyover is scheduled for the start of the Memorial Ceremony, performed by the Commemorative Air Force from San Marcos, Texas.

“The City of Austin is honored to observe the service and sacrifice of all Veterans and pay homage to our Vietnam Veterans 50th anniversary,” said Mayor Lee Leffingwell, retired Navy Veteran. “Those who serve do so not for glory, power, or wealth, but for freedom, and that the simple recognition of service well performed -- a sincere thank you -- means more to most Veterans than any other reward. On behalf of the City of Austin and all of us, thank you.”

This year's Grand Marshal is former Navy Seal Michael Thornton, a combat Vietnam Veteran and recipient of numerous awards including the Congressional Medal of Honor, three Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. Honorees for the parade are retired Army Veteran Marvin Olson, Navy Veteran Joel Lehman, Air Force Veteran James Farmer, Marine Veteran Armando Ybarra, and Coast Guard Veteran James Farmer.

Major General John F. Nichols, Texas Adjutant General, and members of the Texas Military Forces will be participating in the parade and World War II Veterans and Honor Flight participants from Texas will be riding on board the Fox 7 Care Force float in honor of their service.

Immediately following the parade, a commemoration program will honor the Veterans of Travis County and the City of Austin with a special tribute to Vietnam era Veterans on the south steps of the state capitol. The program includes the Austin Independent School District (AISD) essay contest award presentation, wreath laying ceremony, and support provided by the Del Valle High School Cardinal Band and speakers from the Texas Veterans Commission and city and state officials. For more information regarding the 2012 Veterans Day Parade and registering to participate, please visit <http://www.nov11.org/default.asp> .

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