



Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade

NEWS RELEASE

Saluting Our Nation... 250 Years of Veterans in Service

Vets Day Parade Grand Marshal Announced

A World War II Army Air Corps veteran will be the Grand Marshal for this year's Tarrant County Veterans Day parade through downtown Fort Worth on Wednesday, November 11, stepping off at 11 a.m.



Centenarian Sgt. William Owens was born March 26, 1923, in Stephenville, Texas, and is one of the millions of Americans whose lives were changed by the war. Owen's wartime story is closely connected to Big Springs Army Airfield (renamed Webb AFB in 1952 and closed in 1977), located in west Texas.

The Air Corps sergeant was an engine mechanic who troubleshot, repaired, and maintained aircraft throughout the war. The qualified sharpshooter was later awarded the WW II Victory Medal. Owen was honorably discharged at Chanute Field, Ill. In 1945.

"Saluting Our Nation" is the theme of this year's event. Participants will march up Belknap St. from Panther Island, around the Tarrant County Courthouse, down Commerce St., across 5th St., up Houston and back down Belknap to the assembly area.

The City of Fort Worth, along with the Tarrant County Veterans Council (TCVC), is planning the celebration in concert with the Nation's 250th anniversary. Fort Worth's annual Veterans Day salute began 107 years ago as an armistice procession through downtown in 1919 to honor those who had fought in World War I.

Registration for this year's celebration continues online, according to parade officials. Those wanting to take part should visit the parade's website (<https://www.fw2026parade.org>) to register and for all the commemorative details.

The site offers visitors a wealth of information about Veterans Day, according to organizers. Parade spectators, participants and donors can all interact on the site, gathering information about the parade and the history of Veterans Day.

"Everyone can join our veterans salute to Sgt. William Owens. That includes 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 also available online to download and distribute. Hope y’all can join us in saluting all of America’s veterans.”

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For more information, contact Bruce Zielsdorf
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Parade website: <https://www.fw2026parade.org>
VA Freedom 250 website: <https://department.va.gov/history/exhibits/va-freedom-250-virtual-exhibit>
America 250 website: <https://america250.org>