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2018

Huntsville—Madison County

Veterans Parade

Huntsville—Madison County Veterans Parade Planning Commission

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THE PARADE EVENT

1. In 2018, the event is dubbed the “Huntsville / Madison County Veterans Parade”, hereafter the “Veterans Parade” or simply the “Parade”. It is not actually being conducted on Veterans Day, so we are choosing not to call it the “Veterans Day Parade” to avoid confusion.
2. This event has been an annual event in the Valley for almost 20 years.
3. In 2018, the Parade will be held on the day after Veterans Day: Monday, Nov 12, 2018.
4. Pre-Parade activities will take place in Veterans Memorial Park between 10 and 11 a.m.. Opening ceremonies will take place at 11 AM in front of the Park. A cannon will fire at approx. 11:11 AM to start the Parade.
5. For spectators, the Parade will begin at the Veterans Memorial Park on Monroe Street in Huntsville. The route is shown on the map below.
6. Spectators may line up anywhere along the Parade Route, however, the majority of the activities will be conducted in Veterans Memorial Park.
7. For floats, bands, and other Parade participants, the Parade will be mustered in “Lot K”, the vacant lot across from the Post Office on Clinton Ave, between 8:30 AM and 10:15 AM.
8. Late entries or un-registered entries will be placed at the rear of the Parade.



Figure 1. Parade Route

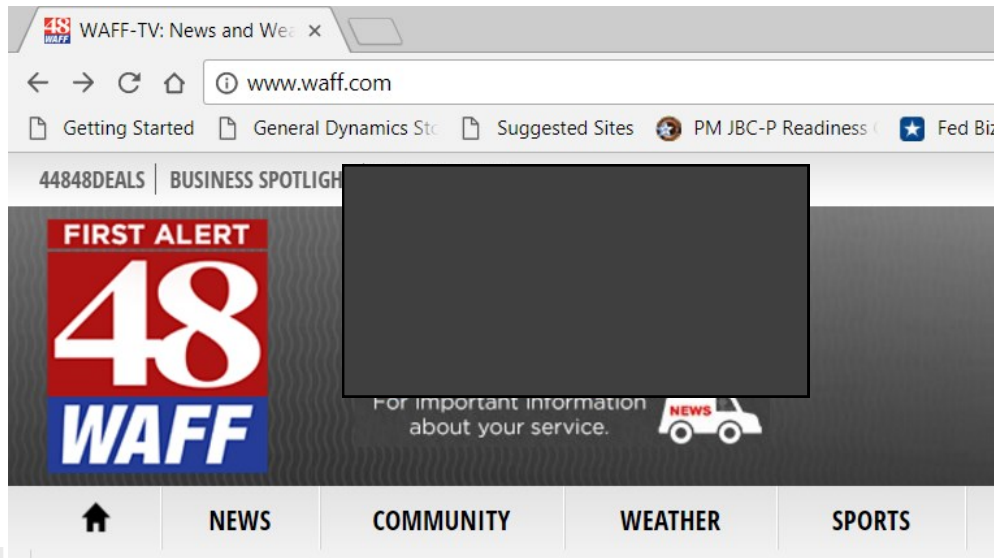
PURPOSE OF THE PARADE

1. The Veterans Parade is a Private Event conducted by non-profit, all-Volunteer group of residents of northern Alabama and of various Veterans Organizations in Madison County, Alabama.
2. As such, we have established basic standards of conduct that we feel we can all live with.
3. If you cannot abide by these rules, you will not be permitted to participate in this Parade.
4. This Parade is a televised, family-friendly event. Activities will be in good taste and reflective of the patriotic spirit of our community and your support of Veterans.
5. All persons or organizations who wish to honor our Veterans are welcome to participate. The Parade should not be used to support/ endorse/ un-support a politician, political candidate, political party, military objective, or social or political cause.
 - a. Politicians in office and politicians-elect will be given their due and respect if mentioned at all.
 - b. The intent of your float/entry should be to support Veterans, not to disparage another person, politician, or group and not primarily to advertise any company, cause, or political interest.
 - c. That being said, your Groups are encouraged to come together in your own name, in your own regalia, and with your own colors to honor Veterans on Veterans Day.
6. HATE GROUPS: Groups listed as Active Hate Groups by the FBI are not invited and will not be permitted to participate in this private event.
 - a. Please note that just because you do not like a group or what they stand for, does not make that group a Hate Group.
 - b. Any group that circumvents the spirit of the Parade will be un-invited to participate. This includes not honoring veterans, or primarily advertising their business, political, religious, or social platform.



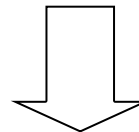
PARADE REGISTRATION

1. Registration of an entry into the Parade is Free and open to the public on the condition that entrants agree to the "Float / Entry Rules" enclosed herein.
2. You do not have to register to be a Spectator in the Parade.
3. This Parade is to show support for Veterans for Veterans Day. If you cannot support our Veterans in this Parade, we ask that you do not participate. This Parade is not organized to support or defend any religious, political, or social cause and should not be used as such.
4. The deadline to register for the Parade is Friday, Nov. 2, 2018.
5. All entries must register at www.waff.com; the site will be live after Labor Day.



Click this Box

Then Click the Banner



REGISTRATION (cont.)

You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Name of organization and/or group:
- What do you plan to enter in the parade? (Band, Float, Marching Unit, Vehicle(s), or Other)
- Number of vehicles and type:
- Contact name:
- Contact phone number:
- Contact e-mail address:
- Description of your organization/group **as it will be read on-air during the parade:**

A GOOD description:

- is brief (can be read in less than 15 seconds)
- mentions your group and your Parade entry and how they are honoring Veterans today
- Mentions people or events that represent your support for Veterans

Example: Acme Plumbing is proud to support our Veterans. On our Company Float today, we have Flags representing all of the military services including a flag for our POWs and MIAs. Representatives from our company who served in the military services are riding in the truck to include a WWII veteran who is a family member of one of our employees.

A POOR description:

- is too long (it probably will not be read)
- Is an advertisement.. This will not be read.
- focuses on you, your business, your cause, or your beliefs.
- lists your entire Board of Directors (we probably won't read that).

Please note that WAFF Channel 48 is under no obligation to televise or read about your organization. The on-air talent will edit entries for brevity and clarity before the Parade and then must make corrections, additions, and deletions on-the-fly. While we would all like to be on TV, the production of the show is a complicated series of events that may or may not include your Parade entry or its description.

YOUR PARADE ENTRY

**No Politics – No Causes – No Lobbying - No Intolerance – No Hate
Only Honoring Veterans!**

1. **THEME:** Design your float to match the parade theme, “Courage, Sacrifice, and Duty – Honoring Our Military Veterans” or your interpretation of supporting Veterans.
2. **GOOD TASTE:** This parade is a televised family-friendly event. Floats will be in good taste and reflective of the patriotic spirit of your organization and/or your support of Veterans. Vulgarity, hate speech, double entendre, vulgar images, and/or disrespectful images of any public figure of any party, persuasion, or cause are not welcome in the Veterans Parade.
3. **OFFENDED PARTICIPANTS.** It is not the job of any parade spectator or participant to police the Parade or to try to make immediate corrections that you personally deem inappropriate. If you witness something illegal, please immediately report the activity to the Huntsville Police Department or call 911 to report a crime. However, if you see a person, group, or object that offends you, you may bring that to the attention of the Parade Officials for follow-up action, if warranted; however, if that offense is not illegal or unsafe (Police actionable), we ask that you limit your activities to your own group, try to enjoy your part of the Parade, and try to ignore whatever offends you.
4. **DRAGGING CANS.** Participants will not drag cans, boots, etc., behind their float as they can come loose and people can trip over them.
5. **VETERANS GROUPS, CHURCH / RELIGIOUS GROUPS, or SOCIAL / CAUSE GROUPS:** Welcome to all! The Veterans Parade is designed to show your support for Veterans. It will not be used to support/ endorse/ un-support a politician, political candidate, political party, military objective, or social or political cause. Politicians in office and Politicians-elect will be given their due and respect if mentioned at all. The intent of your float/ entry should be to support Veterans, not to disparage another person, politician, or group and not to advertise any cause or political interest. That being said, your Groups are encouraged to come together in your own name, in your own regalia, and with your own colors to honor Veterans at the Veterans Parade.
6. **HATE GROUPS:** Groups listed as Active Hate Groups by the FBI are not invited and will not be permitted to participate in this private event.

Parade Participants:

- Arrive with your Entry (Float / Band / Marching Unit / Vehicle(s)) between 8:30 and 10:15 at Lot K “Parade Check In”.
- You must enter the city on Clinton Avenue headed East toward the Post Office (see map below). Parade marshals will be on-hand to direct you to check-in.
- You will stay in Lot K until approximately 10:30 when the Parade Marshals will start leading the “Lead Elements” out of Lot K and onto Holmes Ave.
- The driver must stay with the vehicle at all times... simply follow the Parade Entry that is in front of you! Parade Marshals are checking placement at all times.



Parade Marshals - Traffic Control

1. **OBEY POLICE.** All participants, without regard to their status in the Parade, will take direction from the Huntsville Police Department, the Madison County Sheriff and deputies, any and all uniformed Law Enforcement Officials, and the Parade Marshals (US Army Warrant Officers Association).
2. **OBEY MARSHALS.** For the sake of safety and the flow of the Parade, Parade Marshalls (wearing yellow "US Army Warrant Officer" vest) will work to ensure an adequate, but not extreme, gap is created between any two displays.
3. **NO STOPPING.** Participants may not independently stop along the Parade Route to perform without express permission of the Parade Planning Committee.
 - this causes a huge gap between displays
 - it detracts from the flow of the Parade
 - it interrupts media coverage of the event
 - If this happens the Parade Marshall will direct the parade to flow around you and you will be placed at the rear of the Parade

The actual statute says: [Bands, floats, marching units, vehicles, animals, other units and/or other participants shall not on their own initiative stop along the route or take any action that will slow the orderly progress of the parade unless deemed necessary to do so by an emergency or as orally directed by a duly authorized officer of the Huntsville Police Department for cause.]



About the Parade Lineup

1. Please get in line where the Parade Marshals (Warrant Officers) tell you to go.
2. Parade Marshalls will line up displays according to a list generated by the Parade Planning Committee prior to the day of the Parade.
3. Parade line-up is not first-come, first served! Many factors affect positioning. Some of these factors (but not all) include:
 - a. The Honor/Color Guard is always placed up front. (Honor)
 - b. The military units, police, and fire departments are dispersed throughout the Parade in case they are needed. (Safety)
 - c. Bands are not placed next to military units so the military units can keep a marching cadence. (Sound)
 - d. Small children's organizations (Brownies, Cub Scouts) are not placed behind Large Military Vehicles. (Safety)
 - e. People having suggestions regarding Parade lineups may forward their comments and suggestions to the Parade Chairman, Max Bennett, at maxbennett64@gmail.com for consideration in next years' Parade.
 - f. These guidelines are not hard and fast... the Parade Marshals will make adjustments as needed to account for gaps, missing entries, oversized entries, etc. Safety is always a first consideration.
4. Special accommodations will always be made for the Floyd E. 'Tut' Fann Veterans Home. Have the driver get in line during normal line-up times. Veterans riding on the float may show up together later and will be escorted to their float by Parade Marshals.

Clowns

1. Standard theatrical circus / performing clowns are welcome in the Parade. Clowns have brought happiness and joy to millions of children. The Shriners Organization represent the perfect example of a clown that is used to uplift children and entertain spectators.
2. Scary clowns / evil clowns / zombie clowns / Halloween-themed scary clowns, or clowns that are otherwise meant to scare, frighten, or intimidate others are not welcome in the Veterans Parade. There is a genre of clowns developed by people who enjoy taking stereotypical good icons (clowns, religious figures, innocents) and distorting them into something evil, murderous, or abnormal. These may be good for Halloween; they are absolutely not welcome in this Veterans Parade.
3. Coulrophobia is a fear of clowns; even good clowns. Professional clowns should already know that some people can have a negative reaction to clowns even if the clown is not dressed evil or fearful.
 - a. Clown performers should never approach a person, especially a child, if that person exhibits any indication of being afraid or intimidated.
 - b. Clown performers, upon seeing fear, are instructed to immediately turn away from that person and continue down the Parade Route.
 - c. Clown performers that pursue a frightened spectator or escalate a negative situation will be asked to leave the venue immediately; their supporting organization will be notified; and that performer will be banned from further Parades.

***It is the Performer's responsibility to de-escalate a negative situation,
not the spectator's.***

Special Criteria / VIPs / Elected Officials

1. Service members and veterans who have a military medal with Valor device are asked to identify themselves and sit in the VIP seating at the podium if they are not in the Parade. Please contact the Parade Chairman at maxbennett64@gmail.com for information.
2. Elected Officials. Elected officials-elect, and Flag Officers (Generals and Admirals) are asked to identify themselves to the front podium before the ceremony begins or contact the Parade Chairman at maxbennett64@gmail.com for information prior to the Parade so they can be properly seated / identified.
3. Military personnel will work through our designated representative, Ms. Megan Gully, in the Redstone Arsenal Public Affairs office. Megan may be contacted at (256) 450-9079 or megan.c.gully.civ@mail.mil.
4. Anyone who believes they have a special status of any type needs to identify themselves to the Veterans Day Parade Planning Committee no later than November 4. It is very possible you will not be accommodated on the day of the Parade. E-mail the Parade Chairman, Max Bennett, at maxbennett64@gmail.com prior to Nov 4th if you wish to be considered/ accommodated.

Safety and Cleanliness

1. **WATER:** Each participating element should provide water, food, snacks, etc., to members of their own organization.
2. **GIVE-AWAYS:** Participants will never throw objects (flags, candy, give-aways) from their Float (Police-enforced).
 - a. Participants may provide give-aways only if they are given hand-to-hand.
 - b. Adult Float Participants must take their give-aways out to the edge of the crowd and give items away hand-to-hand.
 - c. Drivers of Floats will never participate in hand-to-hand give-aways.
 - d. The actual statute says: *[No person shall distribute, throw, toss or hand out any item from a vehicle, float or any platform or conveyance attached to or powered by a vehicle, human or animal. Items may be distributed hand to hand along the parade route to persons standing on the sidewalk, or other closed off areas, by persons on foot who are accompanying units in the parade.]*
 - e. *[Any person who is driving, operating or in control of a vehicle, float or any platform or conveyance attached to or powered by a vehicle, human or animal shall be in complete control of the vehicle, float, platform or conveyance and all occupants at all times. Further, they shall avoid all activities and/or distractions that would render him or her incapable of maintaining such control. This shall include, but not be limited to, the use of cell phones, television sets or other video monitors, video and/or audio recording devices, drinking, eating, etc. Failure to strictly adhere to these conditions shall result in the driver or operator and/or vehicle or conveyance being removed from the event.]*
3. **WALKING:** Walkers must be able to easily and comfortably complete a two-mile walk to be a 'Walker' in the Parade.
4. **ELDERLY / INFIRM:** The elderly, handicapped, or those otherwise unable to sustain the Parade walking pace are required to ride on one of the 100+ Parade Vehicles. No person or float shall slow the progress of the Parade or block the Parade for any reason.
5. **WASTE:** Provisions must be made to clean up all waste, in all forms, from any animal, deposited on the roadway, right-of-way and assembly or disband areas.
 - a. Sufficient personnel shall be provided to insure that this is done immediately upon deposit.
 - b. Failure to provide sufficient personnel will result in the animal(s) and rider/owner being removed from the parade lineup or route.

6. **STATE LAWS:** All persons operating or riding on a vehicle that requires that specific safety equipment be used during its operation; such as helmets, shoes, etc., must obey all applicable state laws and municipal ordinances in regard to the use of these items.
7. **TRAFFIC LAWS:** All motor vehicle laws are strictly Police-enforced along the parade route and in the assembly and disband areas. Any person violating these laws or ordinances will be removed from the parade or assembly and disband areas.
8. **CANCELLATION:**
- The Parade Committee may cancel the event if extreme weather moves in. This will be in conjunction with WAFF Channel 48 Weather and the Huntsville Police Department.
 - The Huntsville Police Department may terminate or temporarily suspend this event for cause when existing or imminent conditions pose an immediate danger to the safety, health or life of bystanders, spectators, participants, the general public and/or public employees involved in or working the event. These conditions may include, but are not limited to:
 - ◇ extreme weather conditions (any condition or event that does, or may, pose a threat to the safety or life of any person or damage to property),
 - ◇ manmade or natural disasters,
 - ◇ lack of sufficient personnel to maintain normal Police or other emergency functions
 - The Huntsville Police Department's decision is final and overrides the Parade Committee with regard to anything safety or security-related.
9. These actions are all designed to promote a safe, orderly and clean event for bystanders, spectators, participants, the general public and public employees involved in or working the event. Persons or units engaging in these actions will be subject to removal from the parade.
10. The Huntsville / Madison County Veterans Day Parade, the Committee, and the City of Huntsville, cannot be held liable for costs incurred for you to prepare and participate in the Parade, even if the Parade is cancelled. No one wants to cancel a Parade and it is only cancelled if the Committee and/or the Police deem it is in the interests of the safety of the community to do so.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Am I signed up OK on the registration? Answer: If you registered properly at www.waff.com, the registration asked you for an e-mail address. Once you finished registering, you should have received an automatic e-mail reply indicating that you successfully registered. That e-mail confirmation will come to the e-mail address that you entered into the registration! If you think you did everything OK but did not get an e-mail reply, you can either re-register or send me an e-mail at maxbennett64@gmail.com and I will have the team look into the issue.

I signed up really early in the year. Will that make me closer to the front of the line? Answer: Not necessarily. The Parade line-up is not first-come, first served. Many factors affect positioning. Some of these factors include the fact that Honor/Color Guard is placed up front; the first 15 positions are pre-set each year; military units, police, and fire departments are dispersed throughout the Parade in case they are needed; bands are not placed next to military units so the military units can keep a marching cadence; and small children's organizations (Brownies, Cub Scouts) are not placed behind Large Military Vehicles.

Where should I go with my entry (float, band, etc.) on Parade Day?

Answer: Your float, band, unit, vehicle, etc. should arrive at "Lot K" (across from the Clinton Ave. Post Office - see map) between 8:30 and 10:30 am on Parade Day. Enter the city from the west on Clinton Drive. Go straight on Clinton past the intersection of Clinton and Heart of Huntsville (Police will be there). You will turn into "Lot K". All entries must "check-in" with the Parade Marshals at the entry of "Lot K". The Parade Marshals will then show you where to get in line. Your entry will remain in place until the parade starts moving. Just stay behind the entry in front of you unless directed to stop by a Parade Marshal.

What happens if I don't register my Parade Entry at waff.com and I just show

up for the Parade? Answer: Your entry will be placed at the back of the line and you will not be identified on the live television or identified in any way. Please register at waff.com; it's easy and it's free!

Do I have to check in with the Warrant Officers if my entry is not pre-

positioned at Lot K? Answer: It is true that some float entries are "pre-positioned", for instance, Vets with Vettes are pre-positioned up by the North Hall of the VBC to meet the Wounded Veterans coming out of the breakfast. Also, entries 1 – 10 are pre-positioned from the Park all the way back to Lot K. We ask that a representative of those groups go over to the Warrant Officers at Lot K and verbally check-in. If you are not being pre-positioned or you don't know what that is all about, then please drive all elements of your float, band, or entry to Clinton Ave, check in with the Warrant Officers and they will place you in line.

What is the Parade Route? (See map on Page 3) It is a 2-mile clockwise route. The Parade starts in Lot K (on the corner of Clinton and Woodson). The Parade heads north on Woodson, then east on Holmes, then north on Monroe, then east on Monroe (Monroe curves from north to east) past the Roundhouse and Veterans Memorial Park, then south on Green(e), then west on Williams past the Museum of Art, then north on Monroe past the VBC, then west on Clinton past the North Hall of the VBC, and finally back to the south entrance of "Lot K" on Clinton Street.

I am very tolerant, loving, and accepting of all cultures and ideas and I love everyone, but I hate that group over there... can you kick them out of the Parade for me? It is not the job of any parade spectator or participant to police the Parade or to make corrections that you personally deem inappropriate. If you witness something illegal, please immediately report the activity to the Huntsville Police Department. However, if you see a person, group, or object that offends you, you may bring that to the attention of the Parade Officials for follow-up action, if warranted; however, if that offense is not illegal or unsafe (Police actionable), we ask that you limit your activities to your own group, try to enjoy your part of the Parade, and try to ignore whatever offends you. That being said, groups listed as Active Hate Groups by the FBI are not invited and will not be permitted to participate in this private event.

- a. Please note that just because you do not like a group or what they stand for, does not make that group a Hate Group.
- b. Any group that circumvents the spirit of our Parade will be un-invited to participate. This includes not honoring veterans or primarily advertising their business, political, religious, or social platform.

Who can I contact for more information?

Answer: E-mail Max Bennett at maxbennett64@gmail.com

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