

Impressive lineup, special tributes planned for Dearborn Memorial Day Parade

DEARBORN, Mich. – Attending Dearborn’s Memorial Day Parade is a time-honored way to pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. armed forces.

It’s also a great community event for the entire family.

Dearborn’s Memorial Day Parade takes place at 10 a.m. on May 28 and runs eastbound on Michigan Avenue, from Firestone to Schaefer. The remembrance service that follows the parade will be at the Dearborn War Memorial, located on the grounds of Dearborn City Hall.

Marking its 83rd year, the Memorial Day Parade is Michigan’s oldest continuous tribute to America’s fallen. The parade theme is “Remembering the Meaning of Memorial Day – the Price of Freedom” with a special emphasis placed on the importance of military family members.

A flyover of an F-16 fighter aircraft from Selfridge Air National Guard Base will provide the traditional kickoff signal to start the parade.

One of the country’s finest military bands – the 2nd Marine Air Wing Band – will lead off the Parade and perform in the remembrance ceremony that follows.

The band is generously sponsored by the Dearborn Federal Savings Band, which has sponsored the band’s appearance in at least three other parades. Bianco Tours will be transporting the Marine Band, as well.

Other Parade highlights include flyovers by modern and history military aircraft, members of many veterans' organizations, and bands from several local schools, youth groups and community organizations.

This year's parade grand marshal and special guest also provide a unique presence, both with their distinguished military careers and efforts that have helped to serve the interests of military families.

The grand marshal is U.S. Army Colonel Valerie Ratliff. A veteran of the conflicts in both Afghanistan and Iraq, she currently serves as the military assistant and executive officer to the United States Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

This branch of the government is directly responsible for the programs and policies that support military service members and their families.

Serving as a special guest in the Memorial Day Parade will be Eduardo Gadsden, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major who today serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the National Military Family Association.

The National Military Family Association is the only national organization whose sole focus is the military family and whose goal is to influence the development and implementation of policies that will improve the lives of the families of the armed forces. For more than 35 years its staff and volunteers, consisting of military family members, have built a reputation for being leading experts on military family issues.

For those who are unable to attend in person, the Memorial Day Parade will be televised live on Dearborn's CDTV for Comcast cable subscribers. Those

who have WOW will be able to view the recorded version of the parade at a later date.

Visit the City of Dearborn website at www.dearborn.org for more news information about the city.