

Legion Post 57 getting help for Veterans Day parade

Post teaming with VFW for November event.

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

Local residents will have

an opportunity to honor, thank, and celebrate local veterans and their commitment to the country during the Veterans Day Parade, which is scheduled to take place in a few weeks.

Kelly Valliere, American Legion Post 57 First

Vice-Commander, said American Legion Post 57 and the VFW are joining forces to host this year's Veterans Day Parade.

"The VFW approached us and asked us to assist them with the parade," she said.

The Lake City-Columbia County Veterans Day Parade will take place Saturday Nov. 8. The parade starts at the Florida Department of Transportation facility at 1109 SW Marion Ave. Staging for the parade

will take place from 8-10 a.m. The parade will end at Memorial Stadium, 294 NW Stadium Terrace.

Deadline for entry applications is at the end of business on Saturday, Nov. 1. Parade applications may be obtained

by emailing Valliere at: Post57membership@gmail.com or calling (904)563-0618. There is no entry fee to participate in the parade.

"Currently we have

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over 50 entries," Valliere said. "We have Columbia High School JROTC, band and Tigerettes. We also have the Fort White High School band and numerous members of the community have stepped-up with their vans, trucks and what have you. All of law enforcement officers are going to be involved, so we've got Columbia County Sheriff's Department, Lake City Police Department, forestry, Dept. of Agriculture, VA police."

The Parade Grand Marshal will be Construction and Electrician Master Chief Kenneth Bowen.

Bowen was a POW from Beirut, Lebanon from June 1985-July 85. Bowen is a Lake City resident and is a member of American Legion Post 57.

"He's the only POW in Lake City that I'm aware of," Valliere said.

Other parade entries will include American Legion Riders, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, and the motorcycles are



Vern Lloyd of Lake City hands a flag to a youngster who sprinted to catch up to the Military Officers Association of America float during the 2019 Veterans Day parade.

expected to be out front for this year's parade, with the Florida Highway Patrol and Lake City Police Department officers leading them out.

Valliere said she is anticipating at least 60 entries for this year's parade.

"There's a lot of appli-

cations still out there and people talking to their corporate offices, so I'm expecting at least 60," she said.

Unlike previous Veterans Day Parades, this year's event will not take place on Veterans Day.

"The VFW had chosen

Nov. 8 because we wanted to do something on Nov. 11 here at the post for our veterans," Valliere said.

Both local military organizations feel it's important to continue the time honored tradition of celebrating Veterans Day with a local parade.

"It (parade) just reminds the community that the veterans are here and that we're available to serve our community, honor our local heroes and people who wrote a blank check," Valliere said. "I'm just super-excited to be chosen to chair the whole event.

It's a big responsibility to the community, our veterans and I'm just super-excited."

Valliere will be emailing all of the parade entrants roughly a week before the event so they have all the rules and regulations to participate in the event.