

**From:** The United War Veterans Council  
**Contact:** Gladwyn Lopez / 212-843-9231 / [glopez@rubenstein.com](mailto:glopez@rubenstein.com)  
Pat Smith / 212-843-8026 / [psmith@rubenstein.com](mailto:psmith@rubenstein.com)

---

**For Immediate Release**

**Photos:** [americasparade.org/coastguard](http://americasparade.org/coastguard)

**U.S. COAST GUARD IS FEATURED IN 2016 VETERANS DAY PARADE,  
WHICH HONORS VETERANS OF GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM  
AND 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS**

NEW YORK, NY, August 4, 2016 – The U.S. Coast Guard — celebrating its 226<sup>th</sup> birthday today — is the featured service for the 2016 New York City Veterans Day Parade, [America's Parade](http://AmericasParade.org), United War Veterans Council (UWVC) Chair **Douglas McGowan** announced today.

[UWVC](http://UWVC.org) produces *America's Parade*, the largest celebration of service in the nation, with nearly 40,000 veterans, military personnel and supporters marching up Fifth Avenue from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Friday, November 11.

This year, *America's Parade* will commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 and honor veterans of the Global War on Terrorism as well as first responders to the attack.

“Because of this recognition of 9/11, it is fitting that the U.S. Coast Guard is the featured service for the 2016 *America's Parade*,” McGowan said. “Among the military services, the Coast Guard serves as our first responders. It was the Coast Guard which mobilized within minutes of the strike on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and coordinated the maritime evacuation of 500,000 people from Manhattan, the largest maritime evacuation in history.”

“We are honored to be the featured service for this year's parade,” said **Capt. Michael Day**, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port of New York and New Jersey. “The Coast Guard performs a unique role in New York Harbor and throughout the nation. Not only are we members of the Armed Forces but we are First Responders. It is a responsibility like no other. That this year's parade commemorates First Responders is a fitting tribute to all in that elite, dedicated community.”

Capt. Day was a lieutenant on 9/11, supervising the maritime evacuation from a small boat off Lower Manhattan.

**-more-**

## Veterans Day Parade – page 2

“Team DVS applauds the United War Veterans Council in anticipation of the 2016 *America’s Parade*, honoring the United States Coast Guard as the featured service for this noteworthy year, marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Desert Storm,” said Brigadier General (Ret) **Loree Sutton**, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS.)

“Following the Veterans’ Day breakfast hosted by Mayor Bill de Blasio, the wreath-laying ceremony and the 40,000 strong parade marching up 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue reflect the patriotic pride of New Yorkers and represents UWVC’s tireless year-round leadership and the selfless service of countless volunteers, City agencies and supporting organizations, staunch allies, veteran advocates and family members hailing from across the City and around the country,” Commissioner Sutton added.

“At the [National September 11 Memorial & Museum](#), we will always honor and recognize the great sacrifices made by the men and women who have served, and those who continue to protect this country and our civil liberties,” 9/11 Memorial President **Joe Daniels** said. “The swift actions of the U.S. Coast Guard on the day of the 2001 attacks led to the mobilization of all boats in the area, private and commercial, to ferry hundreds of thousands of people to safety. This incredible story is a part of the Museum, where millions of visitors learn about what happened and see the commitment and bravery of our service members and veterans.”

With 1,000 active duty, reserve duty and civilian personnel, the Coast Guard is the largest active duty military service operating in New York City. It patrols New York waters with seven cutters and 20 small boats. The Coast Guard is America’s maritime guardian, enforcing maritime safety and security and helping to protect the environment.

*America’s Parade* is broadcast live on *WPIX-TV (PIX11)* and *Armed Forces TV*, and live-streamed on *military.com*

The original Veterans Day Parade in 1919 was a welcome home for U.S. troops who served in WWI. This year’s parade begins with a memorial ceremony at the Eternal Light Flagpole in Madison Square Park, a monument to those who served in “the War to End War.”

More than 300 marching units represent over 30 states, and include veterans groups, military units, high school and college bands, and nearly 200 floats and vehicles. This year’s parade also features a special commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Gulf War – Operation Desert Storm.

### **Veterans Day Parade – page 3**

This year, UWVC also is working with leaders in Los Angeles and Philadelphia on Veterans Day celebrations in those cities, with the goal of expanding to 10 cities across America by 2019 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Veterans Day. The Parade is hosted by the City of New York and is supported by numerous patriotic partners, including Aetna and [UWVC Recycling](#).

*America's Parade* serves as the centerpiece of *Veterans Week*, a series of educational, entertainment and tribute events, including a Veterans Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and performances and workshops for and about veterans. Also during the week, there will be tributes and special programming at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, where U.S. veterans are honored annually during the week-long *Salute to Service* in November. A complete schedule will be available at [www.americasparade.org](http://www.americasparade.org) and visit [facebook.com/AmericasParadeNYC](https://facebook.com/AmericasParadeNYC) to stay connected on the latest parade news and announcements.

#### **About United War Veterans Council**

The United War Veterans Council, Inc. (UWVC) is a 501-(c) (19) non-profit organization that is dedicated to mobilizing the public to honor, support and serve America's veterans through a wide range of activities and initiatives. We produce America's Parade (the NYC Veterans Day Parade), the largest celebration of service in the nation. Since our inception, the UWVC has been a non-political, non-partisan organization, with no agenda or purpose other than serving our veterans. We represent the mosaic of the veterans' community, encompassing veterans of all eras and backgrounds. [www.uwvc.org](http://www.uwvc.org) / [FB](#) / [Twitter](#).

###