

For immediate release:

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VETERANS DAY PARADE IN LEONARDTOWN

Leonardtown, MD – The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Commissioners of Leonardtown invite the public to come out and salute America's Veterans at the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown, on Wednesday, November 11, 2015! The parade steps off at 10:00 a.m. on Fenwick Street and will feature Veterans, dignitaries, elected officials, local high school marching bands, military units, color guards, classic and antique cars, boy and girl scouts, cheerleaders, motorcycles, and horses, as well as fire, police and emergency personnel and equipment. Immediately following the parade, spectators are encouraged to remain in the Town Square for a Veterans Memorial Ceremony to include patriotic music, laying of wreaths, and words of remembrance.

Come to the Square early to see a restored MiG-21 cockpit on display, and talk to representatives from Vacations for Vets, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), The Marine Corps League and Young Marines, The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, and CSM's Heroes Campaign. All of these organizations will be set up in the Square to provide information on programs for veterans and active-duty military, including ways that the general public can help our local military families.

In the event of inclement weather, the Veterans Day Parade will be cancelled, and the Memorial Ceremony will be moved inside to the Leonard Hall Recreation Center Gymnasium, on Route 245 adjacent to the St. Mary's County Governmental Center Complex (23145 Leonard Hall Drive) at 11:00 AM. Those wishing to lay wreaths at the monuments may choose to do so.

Parking and Shuttles for the 2015 Leonardtown Veterans Day Parade

Reminders:

Spectators and Parade Participants

Please do not park in the **Courthouse Parking lot** on Courthouse Drive or surrounding side streets. These areas are reserved for school buses and shuttles and must remain clear to reduce congestion at the end of the parade.

Please do not park at the College of Southern Maryland Leonardtown Campus. They will be open for classes on Veterans Day and need the parking lot to be open for students and faculty.

Parade participants are requested to be in place in the lineup at St. Mary's Ryken High School no later than 9:30 a.m. Please plan accordingly:

Parade vehicles, including buses, floats, emergency vehicles, cars, trucks and motorcycles, should report directly to the staging area at St. Mary's Ryken High School between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. **All parade vehicles should be parked by 8:00 a.m.**

Marching groups and other parade participants should park at Leonardtown Middle School and take the shuttle to St. Mary's Ryken High School between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Parents are asked to not drop their children off at Ryken High School, along the side of the road or at the intersection. All persons participating in the parade and who are not riding in a vehicle, should ride the shuttle bus from Leonardtown Middle School.

Parking for Spectators:

Spectators are encouraged to park at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds and ride one of the complimentary, round-trip, shuttles into Town. Parking is also available at the St. Mary's County Governmental Center. Spectators should park in the areas near the Carter State Office Building, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD. Walk into Town or board the shuttle at the shuttle stop near the flagpoles between the Carter Office Building and the Potomac Building. Handicap-accessible shuttles will be available at both locations.

Washington Street and Fenwick Street leading into downtown Leonardtown will be closed to traffic from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. **Downtown parking and thru traffic will be limited** to areas accessible from Lawrence Avenue. Officers from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office will provide traffic control, and Parade Volunteers will assist with parking and street detours.

Handicapped Parking:

Spectators requiring handicapped parking may take Washington Street and upon showing proof of a handicapped sticker or need, will be allowed to park in the designated lot behind the Church of the Nazarene.

The annual Veterans Day Parade is sponsored by the Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. For more information call 301-475-9791 or 301-475-4200 ext. 1342.

