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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **VETERANS DAY PARADE SET FOR NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

*4 Mile race, special recognition part of Armed Services Salute*

**DETROIT, MI** – Tanks, trucks, JROTC units, high school bands and even the Big Heads typically seen in the Thanksgiving Day Parade will join approximately 2,000 veterans and their families in the Veterans Day Parade in Detroit on Sunday, November 5, 2023.

Master Chief Vincent W. Patton, a Detroit native who served as the Eighth Master Petty Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard, will serve as the parade's grand marshal. Fox-2 weatherman and Gulf War veteran Rich Luterman will emcee the 9:45 a.m. ceremony to kick off the parade, which will start at IBEW Local 58, 1358 Abbott Street in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood. The parade, which starts at 11 a.m., will progress from the union hall onto Trumbull and then along Michigan Avenue. Viewers are encouraged to go to Roosevelt Park near 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Michigan Avenue to catch a good view.

"Each year, we try to get more individuals in this region to understand about and pay tribute to the many men and women who helped keep our country safe," said Jerry Eden, parade manager for the Metro Detroit Veterans Coalition (MDVC), which puts on the parade. "Besides honoring veterans, the parade itself has a lot for families to enjoy – from marching bands to the Big Heads."

The parade is just one part of the 18th Armed Services Salute. There will also be a 4Star, 4Mile race that will allow veterans to run alongside parade participants. Special recognition will also be given to two individuals during the opening ceremony:

Kate Melcher will be recognized as a Veteran of Distinction for her role as executive director of the Fisher House Foundation. The organization builds free housing to accommodate military families whose loved ones are in the hospital. A Fisher House is to be constructed at 7618 Woodward in Detroit.

Tom Wilson, an Army veteran who served in the early 1970s with the Armed Forces Central NATO during the Cold War, will be honored as Veteran of the Year. The recognition is for his more than 40 years of work dedicated to assisting veterans, particularly with the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council.

The MDVC, a collaboration of Detroit-area armed services organizations, works to support and honor veterans, which includes the parade as well as working to restore the Michigan War Veterans Memorial formerly housed at the Michigan State Fairgrounds. The salute is in honor of the national holiday, Veterans Day, which is November 11. The holiday recognizes America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve. *For more information, go to <https://www.mdvcmi.org/>*