



March 8, 2019

Dear Citizens:

When one hears the word patriotism, what comes to mind? In a country as diverse and complex as the United States, the word takes on many meanings. True patriotism is a strong sense of pride in and connection to a nation that champions its people, loves its land, and learns from its history. Part of history is military conflict. These significant events and the men and women who engage in all aspects are often overlooked in favor of more modern, commercialized celebrations.

National Armed Forces Day, celebrated on the third Saturday in May, is a day parade organizers in Corsicana, Texas have determined to be a great day to recognize not only military veterans, but active military, along with the organizations who support the patriotic belief. The inaugural Texas Veterans Parade will move through historic Downtown Corsicana, along the brick streets and businesses. Participants will be recognized for their service to our country. I, and many of those who live here, can't recall such a military parade in town for more than 30 years. The last military parade in the United States honored the end of the Gulf War, so what better time to display how we came to enjoy the freedoms we have.

The parade will be May 18, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. I am inviting anyone who is part of a group or organization with ties to any branch of military, active or retired, to join this parade. Youth groups are encouraged to attend and participate to experience the dedication these veterans show all of us.

The Grand Marshal is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Vintage military vehicles, a Commemorative Air Force Ground Force Detachment Unit, and a flyover by the Coyote Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force are all scheduled. Patriotic floats, marching bands, and the Corsicana High School U.S. Air Force ROTC will join the parade.

Any organizations interested in participating should contact Joe D. Hill, U.S. Navy (Retired) at 903-257-5910 or visit the website at www.texasveteransparade.com for an application.

Sincerely,

Don Denbow
Mayor