

The Bandera PROPHEET

November 1, 2020

Bandera Honors Veterans Celebration Invitation for all
More floats and displays welcome to honor veterans

Contributed

For the past 18 years, Bandera Honors Veterans has honored local military, veterans and their families with a celebration beginning at the Bandera County Courthouse. Despite all the challenges of 2020, the 19th celebration scheduled for Nov. 7, is ready to celebrate Bandera County's heritage of service and sacrifice.

"We thank the Commissioners Court and the City of Bandera for their support and approval of the use of property and the parade route with a focus on safety," Bandera American Legion Post 157 Commander Susan Junker said. "The arrangement of participants on the front courthouse lawn has been changed to allow for more room for onlookers along the parade route, reduce congestion along sidewalks and increase safety for those riding on the Veterans Float."

There will be new and expanded family displays to start the day at 9:30 a.m. and remain open throughout the morning. There is still time to sign up and tables are provided. The Burkes family is setting up three tables this year to share the contributions of seven of seven sons who served in the military. In addition, there will be other agencies and nonprofits providing information for veterans and their families.

The honors program begins at 10:30 a.m. with remarks by the Honorable Richard Evans, Bandera County judge, and keynote speaker Sergeant (Retired) Scott Gossett, Iraq and Afghanistan Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient.

Speakers will be interspersed with music provided by the San Antonio Pipes and Drums and several soloists. VIP seating for World War II and Korean War veterans will be located near the courthouse front entrance (blankets provided as needed). Veterans will also take the stage for other remarks and prayers. Veterans will then load onto their special float on Pecan Street across from China Bowl.

Parade entrants are still being accepted. Call Dennis at 210-788-9160 or email amlegion157@live.com to provide details and sign up for the parade or displays.

“Special appreciation to the Bandera mayor, city manager and marshal for their assistance in developing the new safety plan and processing it quickly with the TxDOT,” Post 157 Parade Chairman Dennis Birchall said. “We are all overdue for a parade (*sic* it’s has been since Mardi Gras) demonstrating patriotism and pride.”

The parade will begin at noon at Bandera City Park and complete the circuit by way of Main Street.

Marine Corps veteran and restaurateur Sid Gibson and his family will again serve their barbeque luncheon for all veterans and their spouses on the courthouse lawn by Hackberry Street. Country Sweets Bakery will provide five military service cakes for dessert and Hondo Bank has donated the water.

Bandera Honors Veterans is held to pay homage to “the willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country which has earned them our lasting gratitude,” Jeff Miller said.