

VETERANS DAY

Post 57 accepting applications for parade

Veterans Day parade scheduled for Nov. 7.

By **TONY BRITT**

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American Legion Post 57 is currently accepting applications for the 2026 Lake City Veterans Day Parade.

Post 57 is hosting the Veterans Day parade, which will take place 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Bill Huggins, Post 57 commander, said the organization has experienced a change in personnel but will be taking entry applications at least up through Monday afternoon.

"You never know how many entries there will be," he said.

"Right now, again with the change in personnel, we know we've got a lot of entries, but I don't know if we've achieved last year's status yet, but we're working diligently to get there."

There are no entry fees to be a participant in the Veterans Day parade.

The parade will follow its traditional route, with lineup at the Florida Department of Transportation office and the parade heading north along Marion Avenue before turning west on Washington Street and ending at Memorial Stadium.

The theme for this year's parade is: Honoring Veterans.

This marks the second year Post 57 has hosted the annual parade.

"Last there was some difficulty with the VFW and they were not able to do the parade and it fell in our lap," Huggins said. "I'm told that last year's Veterans Day parade was the largest in Lake City history."

Although Huggins did not recall the specific number of entries in the 2025 parade, he noted there were so many entries that the lineup encompassed close to four city blocks, where the four streets off the main parade route were filled with entries.

Huggins said he's pleased to be able to host the parade and honor local veterans for their sacrifices because he feels it's important.

"Every veteran signed the same check, payable up to and

including their life. Some gave all. All gave some. Every day is a day to remember those of us who made it home and celebrate the fact that we are still here and as veterans, we continue to give back to our communities," Huggins said.

People who want to participate in this year's Veterans Day parade can contact Huggins via email Billhugginssr@hotmail.com or Americanlegion57@comcast.net.

"We just ask that the public comes out and supports those in the parade," Huggins said. "This is a special day for veterans. We at American Legion Post 57 are here to celebrate our veterans and see that they get everything and every recognition that they're entitled to."