

## **Background**

The Military and Veterans Commission was established by City Council in February 2023. Five members were appointed by City Council and come from a variety of backgrounds. Each member has served in the military, with the branches represented including the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to City Council and the City Manager to create and maintain an atmosphere contributing to the respect and appreciation for past and current members of the United States Armed Forces, and to enrich the lives of Hudson residents and visitors through honoring said military members and recognizing the tremendous value of their service to the United States of America.

## **2023 In Review**

The commission held its first meeting in May 2023 and began assisting with the planning and executing the Memorial Day parade and ceremony. Following the parade and ceremony, the commission spent several meetings discussing and eventually approving the commission objectives. Finally, the commission finished out the year by developing banners honoring veterans that were displayed on SR 91 and SR 303 during the week around Veterans Day and partnering with the American Legion Auxiliary to hold the cities first Veterans Day ceremony.

## **Objectives**

*Supporting and enhancing area military and veterans' celebrations with a focus on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.*

- Grow participation in the annual Memorial Day parade by conducting outreach to local organizations.
- Increase the emphasis on patriotic themes and honoring fallen service members during the Memorial Day parade.
- Increase attendance at the Memorial Day Ceremony
- Grow attendance at the Veterans Day ceremony by conducting community outreach.

*Supporting military and veterans outreach activities to include interaction with local schools, recruiters, and veteran's needs (relocation, support, etc.)*

- Develop a system to connect veterans to resources available in our community.
- Create a list of local veterans that can be drawn upon to assist with activities at local schools and informally assist with recruiting and serving fellow veterans.

*Establishing community recognition programs of veterans and service members (i.e., acknowledgement or sculpture on Veterans Way)*

- Display veteran appreciation banners on SR 91 and SR 303 around Veterans Day.
- Create and display banners to honor local veterans to be displayed around Veterans Day.
- Explore a partnership with local artists to create and display a public art piece to honor local veterans.