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November 12 Parade Honors Veterans



Army veteran Tony Serna, this year's grand marshal at the Perris Veterans' Day Parade, works on a mural that will hang at American Legion Post 595 on D Street in the City.

Military vehicles, classic cars, marching bands, floats and drill teams along with the appearance of local dignitaries highlight the annual City of Perris Veterans Day Parade. The parade begins at 10 a.m. on Nov. 12 and spectators are asked to line D Street between Fourth Street and San Jacinto to view the proceedings.

The first 150 spectators will receive t-shirts and hand-held American flags to commemorate the parade.

"The City of Perris has a long and distinguished relationship with the military and we are proud to honor those who have sacrificed and served our country," said Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo, who is helping organize the parade. "It's an honor for the City to host this important event."

The City's connection to the military dates to the Civil War.

Union Army veterans staged some of the earliest remembrances of service and sacrifice, marching along Downtown Perris streets in the 1890s. The remains of 13 Civil War veterans rest at the Perris Valley Cemetery not far from City Hall.

The City was incorporated in 1911, six years before March Air Force Base came into existence, and has served as home to many thousands of active duty and reservists over the decades.

Army veteran Tony Serna, who served in Operation Desert Storm, has been named this year's parade Grand Marshal.

Serna is working on a five-panel mural at American Legion Post 585 on D Street. The mural depicts the history of Perris and the role the military has played in the community's development. The public art will be visible to train travelers passing nearby on the Metrolink Perris Valley Line, which will spread the word about the City's past and present.

Serna previously painted a mural at the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce offices. That art work depicts an American eagle, his head bowed as he rests on the helmet and boots of a fallen soldier. The mural also includes the inscription "Salute to the Fallen but Never Forgotten."

Serna served 13 years in the military, travelling the world four times to fulfill his duties. But he always returned with a deep love and respect for America and now shows his gratitude through art.



Perris Valley schools are well represented in the annual Veterans Day Parade, as members of this Color Guard march in the 2015 parade.

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