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Veterans Day Parade to draw thousands

By Mike Steely
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More than 60 organizations will take part in the 92nd Annual Veterans Day Parade downtown Knoxville this Friday. The City of Knoxville and the American Legion Post 2 host the popular event.

The parade, which honors all veterans of the five military services, starts on Howard H. Baker

Jr. Avenue in front of the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and marches to Church Street and then to Gay Street. It proceeds to Magnolia Avenue where it ends.

A reviewing stand will be set up in near Mast General Store and the Grand Marshall is Furman Swanson, a 98-year-old WWII veteran. The UT Tennessee Army ROTC Color Guard leads the parade, followed by several

high school bands. The U.S. Navy Band will be featured during the parade.

To honor veterans the lights on the Henley Bridge will be red, white and blue on Saturday and Sunday night.

The parade begins at 10:45 a.m.

Participants this year include The East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard, the UT ROTC

Dragon Company, Central High School Navy JROTC, Rolling Thunder TN 3, South-Doyle Army JROTC, Hardin Valley Academy Marching Band, Bearden High School band, Karns High School Air Force JROTC, East Tennessee Regional Antique Auto Club, L&N STEMPunka, Farragut Navy JROTC, Woodman Life, and Patriots Guard Riders.

Others to take part include the

Scottish American Military Society Post 328, Smoky Mountain Blue Star Mothers, Sharon Baptist Church, Christian Academy of Knoxville, Naval Fleet Reserve Branch 194 and Vietnam Vets of America Chapter 1078, Smokey Mountain Military Vehicle club, Knoxville Police Department, East Tennessee Corvette Club.

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Pictured at Wright's reception last week are Col. Richard Julian, State Representative Harry Brooks, Commissioner Dave Wright, former Commissioner Jack Huddleston and Law Director Bud Armstrong

Dave Wright kicks off his Tennessee legislative race

By Mike Steely
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In an evening that filled the house at the Corryton Senior Center, Commissioner Dave Wright kicked off his campaign for the state legislature. Surrounded by fellow citizens, elected officials and retiring State Representative Harry Brooks, Commissioner Wright seemed to know everyone who attended.

Prior to the beginning of the event The Focus asked Wright for something most people don't know about him.

"I live on the same road where I grew up within sight of the silo at home and across the road from where my grandfather plowed with a team of horses," he said.

Dave Wright was described by Brooks, whom Wright hopes to replace, as a person of "morality, faith and ethics" and

called those qualities "a solid base." He called Wright a great commissioner and a good community chairman.

Wright returned the compliment saying that Brooks "did a great job for 16 years." He also said that Brooks showed him what it is like to be in the legislature.

Brooks said he's retiring because he and his wife "aren't getting any older, just slower."

Wright said that the best of Knox County is setting in the room and called out Jack Huddleston for his work on the crossing and traffic light at Gibbs and Focus. Publisher Steve Hurlley for his success in getting a Gibbs Middle School.

"It takes people like that," Wright said, calling on those present to "get out, work and vote for me." He also recognized his wife, Pat, and said they were high school sweethearts and she stayed

with him through the U.S. Army, where he served as a Lieutenant, and during his AT&T career.

Among those present were Richard Armstrong, Tim Wheeler, Mike McMillan, Patti Bounds, and Michael Grider for Mayor Tim Burchett, Phil Ballard, Daniel Sanders, Richard Julian, and R. Larry Smith. Wright was appointed to the Knox County Commission in 2008 and was re-elected, serving a six-year term as 8th District representative. The life-long Corryton resident he graduated from Gibbs High School and earned a BS in Management from UT. He served in Vietnam as an Army officer and is retired from AT&T.

Wright is the son of a dairy farmer, was a Boy Scout, a Mason and is a Methodist. Dave and Pat have one son, Bill, and a grandchild, Ansley.

Central High adding four to Wall of Fame

On November 9, 2017, four noteworthy graduates of Central High School will be inducted into the "Wall of Fame."

The late Hazel Ogg Costa, Class of 1912, was an inspiration to her famous daughter, but also noteworthy for a life devoted to charity and patriotic causes.

The owner of the 119-year-old Greenlee's Bicycle Shop, Conrad Majors, Class of 1954, also taught and coached the youth at Central for 32 years.

Two classmates of the Class of 1957, Dr. Bob Collier and Bill Nickle, each have created community center pieces creating legacies which will benefit future generations.

These four Central graduates will be honored by Central High School Foundation and the CHS Alumni Association at a banquet at Gresham Middle School, "Old Central."

This is the 16th annual "Wall of Fame" induction sponsored by the Central High Foundation and CHS Alumni Association. These outstanding four alumni will be honored at the "Wall of Fame" Dinner to be held on Thursday, November 9, at 6 p.m. at Gresham Middle School's cafeteria, 500 Gresham Road. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and may be purchased in person at the school office, or by contacting Larry Smith at 922-5433 or Courtney Shea at courtsh@acsd.com.



Hazel Ogg Costa



Conrad Majors



Dr. Bob Collier



Rev. Bill Nickle

Commission rule changes to be discussed

By Mike Steely
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Change the meeting time of Knox County Commission? Raise the allowance of commissioners? Move the public forum during meetings? Those are just a few things to be discussed during a meeting of the commission's Rules Committee at 4 p.m. today.

The Rules Committee is

made up with Commissioners Carson Dailey, Brad Anders, Charles Busler, Evelyn Gill and Michelle Carringer.

To be discussed are several changes including the idea of numbering the agenda items in regular and work meetings, setting an agenda item deadline, and upping each commissioner's allowance for food, refreshments entertainment,

etc. from \$35 to \$50.

The Rules Committee may also discuss changing the meeting times from 5 p.m. until 2 p.m. and moving school agenda items to the end of the agenda.

The Public Forum portion of work sessions and requiring a sign-up sheet prior to the meetings could see some discussion as well as questions

or answers after the public speaks. The sign-up sheet could also require what subject the speakers want to address. The committee will meet one hour prior to the work session today in the main assembly room of the City-County Building.

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