

News from the City of Dearborn

Michael A. Guido, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joe Stumpo named Veteran of the Year; **Public invited to Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11**

Dearborn, MI - Joe Stumpo, whose personal campaign is to honor those who served in the Vietnam War, has been named the 2006 Veteran of the Year by the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council (DAWVC).

Stumpo will be honored during the DAWVC and City of Dearborn's Veterans Day Ceremony, which takes place at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 in the City Council Chambers at Dearborn City Hall, at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Schaefer. The public is invited.

Stumpo, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, has been an active supporter of veterans' organizations in Dearborn.

Stumpo's commitment to honor his fellow servicemen was highlighted in 2000, when he worked hand in hand with Mayor Michael A. Guido and his staff, while the Vietnam War Memorial Moving Wall was in Dearborn.

Stumpo was fortunate to be president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 267 at the time, which allowed him to be involved in this event.

While the Moving Wall was in Dearborn, Stumpo demonstrated his commitment to veterans by helping to bring many of them to the exhibit that possibly would not have been able to get there on their own.

Also, while Stumpo was the Commander of the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council, he was involved with planning and operating the Dearborn Memorial Day Parade in 2002.

The 2002 parade was unforgettable because New York police and firefighters involved in the 9-11 tragedy were the parade grand marshals. He worked directly with the firefighters and police officers, and this was a very rewarding and memorable moment for him.

He also marched in the Memorial Day parade for the past 15 years with the Color Guard. He also participated for 11 years in the 12-hour vigil on Memorial Day at the Dearborn Veterans Memorial to honor his fallen comrades.

In addition, Stumpo has helped to organize Dearborn's Veterans Day services.

"I feel honored to be elected to stand up next to the men who have been named Veterans of the Year in the past," said Stumpo. "Those men were my mentors. This is the greatest honor that has been bestowed upon me, and I will represent this position to the best of my ability."

He has also participated in Dearborn's Flag Day services, which include the proper disposal of retired American flags.

"Memorial Day is the day to pay respect to those men and women who have gave the supreme sacrifice for freedom we enjoy today," said Stumpo. "Veterans Day is for the veterans who made it through such conflicts and who can still enjoy freedom and life," he said.

"Veterans Day allows the veterans to shake each others hands and say welcome home and to tell them thank you for being there," he said.

Stumpo served as the president for three consecutive terms, 1st and 2nd Vice President, and Board of Directors for the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), James Huard Chapter 267.

His other positions have included: Junior Vice Commander, Board of Directors, and other committees for the American Legion, Fort Dearborn, Post 364; Commander, 1st Vice and 2nd Vice Commander, and served three consecutive years on the executive board for the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council. He has also held positions with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7910.

He volunteers at events for VVA, Chapter 267, and the American Legion Post 364. He is involved with the annual fundraising poppy sale for veterans. He is an active volunteer for the golf outing, Help-A-Vet Dance, Super Bowl party, Dearborn Homecoming, Hog Heaven, Memorial Day and Veteran Day Services.

He is a member of the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Ritual Team and has been on the Chapter 267 Color Guard since inception.

Stumpo assisted disabled veterans in the past by bringing them home for the weekend from the Veterans' Hospital. These weekends allowed the veterans, who were wheel-chair users, to experience the routines of daily life outside of the hospital.

Drafted into the military service in April 1966, Stumpo trained in Fort Knox, Kentucky and Fort Riley, Kansas.

He was assigned to the U.S. Army and became a member of the 9th Infantry Division and served in Vietnam from November 1966 to November 1967. While there, he was a rifleman, and also worked in operations on drawing maps of locations.

During his service in the Army, Stumpo was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 2 Stars, National Dispense Ribbon, and the Combat of Infantry Badge.

Stumpo currently resides in Dearborn. He raised five children: Joe Jr., Mary, Tom, Angela, and Tony. He also has five grandchildren.