FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Cleveland Veterans Day Committee

November 4, 2026
Cleveland, Ohio

Vietnam Veteran and DD214 Chronicle Publisher Donald Stark Named Grand Marshal of the 2026 Cleveland Veterans Day Parade

(Cleveland) — The Cleveland Veterans Day Committee has named Lance Cpl. Donald C. Stark, U.S. Marine Corps, as Grand Marshal of the 2026 Cleveland Veterans Day Parade. Stark, a Vietnam veteran, is publisher of the DD214 Chronicle, "the newspaper that keeps Veterans and their families across Northeast Ohio informed."

The parade steps off Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. from Cleveland City Hall, 601 Lakeside Ave. E., following the national anthem and a flyover at 12:27 p.m. The route travels to E. 9th St., Superior Ave., W. Roadway and into Tower City.

"Donald Stark was selected because he's never stopped caring for his brothers and sisters in arms long after his official time in the Marine Corps ended," said Matt Eck, 2026 Parade and Celebration organizer. "He fully embodies the Marine Corps motto of Semper Fidelis by being always faithful to those who served."

The day begins with a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. in the City Hall Rotunda. After the parade, the free Celebration of Veterans runs from 1 to 4 p.m. at Tower City with live music, performances, giveaways, children's activities and Veteran resources. The 5th Annual Neighborhood Veterans Resource Fair follows on Friday, November 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Gunning Recreation Center.

About the 2026 Grand Marshal

Stark was selected for his commitment to keeping Northeast Ohio Veterans and their families informed through the DD214 Chronicle, and for his many other philanthropic efforts on behalf of Veterans.

A Lakewood native, Stark graduated from St. Edward High School, where he is a Distinguished Alumnus, and attended The Ohio State University. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from September 1966 to September 1968, including in Marine Corps Intelligence during the Vietnam War. Service runs in the family: his father, Robert D. Stark, and his brother, Richard Stark, also served as Marines.

His community service includes:

- Fairview Park Ward 3 City Council
- Catholic War Veterans
- Board member, Police Athletic League
- Community Service Alliance
- More than 14 years volunteering with Hospice of the Western Reserve, leading Veteran end-of-life recognitions

Read Stark's full biography at clevelandveteransdayparade.com/grand-marshal.

Thank You to Our 2026 Partners

The Cleveland Veterans Day Parade and Celebration is free to the public thanks to the generosity of our partners:

Patriotic Partner: KeyBank (Bounce House, Coloring Wall, Balloon Twisters and Face Painters)

Historic Partners: ERIEBANK (Presenting Partner of the Neighborhood Veterans Resource Fair) · Swagelok (Patriotic Photo Booth) · The Cleveland Cavaliers (DJ & Entertainment Teams)

Stars & Stripes Partners: VFW Post 2133 (Parade Float Contest) · Gogolick Foundation (Teddy Bear Clinic) · Inspired Experiences (Donation)

Salute Partner: Rock Security (Donation)

All-American Partners: American Legion Post 572 (Sign Making Station for the CLE Salutes Tunnel) · Benedictine High School (Letters to Troops) · Cleveland FBI Citizens Academy (Prize Wheel) · Golf Cart Girl CLE (Grand Marshal Transport) · Village Caregiving (Flag Mosaic) · Humana ("I Salute" Stickers)

Distinguished Donors: Cleveland-Cliffs · Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission · Evarts Tremaine · JACK Cleveland Casino · VFW Post 2595

Meritorious Donors: Assisting Hands of Greater Cleveland · CAVA · Councilman Kris Harsh · Veterans Fence

Achievement Donors: Councilwoman Deborah Gray · US AFVARN

We also thank our organizing partners: the City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Veterans Collaborative, the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County, Rid-All Urban Farm, Party 411 Events and the Cleveland Veterans Day Parade Committee.

Ways to JOIN THE MISSION to make the Cleveland Veterans Day Parade and Celebration one of the biggest events every year for our heroes!

- **LINE THE STREETS.** Bring your family, friends, coworkers and organizations downtown to cheer on the parade.
- **ENCOURAGE** your employees and coworkers (especially your Veteran coworkers) to take a long lunch and support the Parade and attend the Celebration.
- **JOIN** the CLE Salutes Tunnel. Greet marchers with signs and flags as they arrive at the Celebration at Tower City. (Sign making station available)
- **DONATE** to ensure we can make this the best day possible!
- **SHARE** the news on social media and with your networks. For the parade route and event details, visit clevelandveteransdayparade.com. Follow us at facebook.com/ClevelandVeteransDayParade and instagram.com/clevelandveteransdayparade.

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