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Three Grand Marshals to Lead Ocean County Veterans Day Parade

(Toms River, NJ) This year's Ocean County Veterans Day Parade will have not one, but three grand marshals.

The trio is representing three different service branches of the U.S. military – the Navy, Army, and the Marine Corps.

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, said Toms River and Ocean County is proud of its military heritage and the commitment of its residents to serve.

“It is absolutely appropriate that the Township recognizes these three individuals for their military service to our country. Our Veterans Day Parade is a symbol of how much we value the service of all of our veterans – those from past wars to those serving today. It is important that as a community we remember to thank our veterans, today and every day,” Mayor Kelaher said.

Leonard Mueller IV, a Navy veteran, has been chosen to serve as one grand marshal this year. Leonard entered the U.S. Navy in 1973. He spent most of his naval career in the Strategic Airborne Command and Control Mission, and went on to qualify as an EC-130Q Aircraft Commander and Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Instructor and Check Pilot accumulating over 3,700 pilot flight hours. After earning his “Wings,” Leonard was deployed throughout the Pacific Ocean in support of the National Command Authority and was assigned the task of training new naval aviators.

In July 1993, Leonard reported to Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, where his duties included Executive Officer, Air Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer.



(L to R) Councilman Mo Hill presents the Grand Marshal Proclamation to Leonard Mueller.

In July 2000, he reported to Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Lakehurst, as Peculiar Support Equipment Program Manager for the KC-130J and H-1 Helicopter, retiring in July 2003, finishing out his 30 year career in the U.S. Navy. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal and two Navy Commendation Medals.

Over the past 13 years, he continued his service with the U.S. government, serving as the Peculiar Support Equipment Program Manager at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and certified Defense Acquisition Corps Officer. Leonard has volunteered for numerous organizations including the Vietnam Veterans of America, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the Boy Scouts.

This year's other two grand marshals are a husband and wife team from Tuckerton – Ken and Barbara Hagemann.

Ken Hagemann served in the United States Marine Corps as a Scout/Sniper with the 2nd Marine Division. He has 5 overseas deployments including a combat tour to the Middle East where he participated in air, sea and ground combat operations against Iranian Armed Forces. After his discharge, Ken joined the Roselle Police Department and served for 20 years with the Union County SWAT Team as a sniper and team leader. Ken retired last year with the rank of Lieutenant. Ken has been very active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars as a member of A.J.Weeks Post 6063 in Toms River and is currently serving as the State Adjutant for the VFW Department of New Jersey.



His military awards include the Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and a Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.



Barbara Kim-Hagemann served in the U.S. Army on both active and reserve duty. Her first assignment was in Mannheim Germany as an Illustrator. Barbara was later ordered to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during Operation Desert Shield/Storm where she served with HHC 7th Transportation.

After her active duty service, Barbara attended Georgian Court College and became a Veteran Service Officer helping veterans in the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau in Toms River. She joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1991 and

became the first female District (county) Commander in New Jersey. She is currently serving as the State Judge Advocate and is the first female to hold a statewide position in the Department of New Jersey. She is Chair of the Women's Veteran Committee and a member of the Legislative Committee fighting for veteran rights and benefits in Trenton and Washington D.C. Barbara is the 2016/2017 Commander of Post 6063 in Toms River.

Her military awards include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, and Kuwait Liberation Medals.

During Tuesday's Council meeting, they received Grand Marshal Proclamations from the Governing Body.

Ken says he and Barbara are honored to be recognized for their service by the Township of Toms River. "Like millions of Americans before us, we are proud to have served. We are fortunate to have positions where we can help veterans, military personnel and their families. To us every day is Veterans Day. Please pray for our troops and never forget the sacrifices made to keep our nation free," said Ken Hagemann.

This year's parade takes place on Monday, November 14th. The parade will start at 9:30 a.m. at the Toms River Shopping Center on Rt. 37 and will travel south on Main Street (Rt. 166) and then east onto Washington Street. A post parade ceremony in front of Town Hall will feature speakers and honored guests, including a placing of the wreath on the Veteran's monument.



Barbara and Ken Hagemann receive Proclamations for Grand Marshal at the October 25, 2016 Council Meeting.