



Steve Kemmerle in Veteran's Day Parade



Unsung Hero Honored as 2015 Good Egg Steve Kemmerle

Keeping Our Veterans Day Parade Marching

Sometimes the Good Egg is honored for preserving Petaluma's history that occurred long before any of us were alive. The recipient of this year's Good Egg award has been selected for helping us remember and honor those that have and still do serve their nation's cause, defending the freedom of mankind and American heritage.

Steve Kemmerle is an "unsung hero", volunteering hundreds of hours each year arranging and producing the Petaluma Veteran's Day Parade, working tirelessly with veteran organizations, schools and civic organizations. Kemmerle's commitment to preserving the parade for our community is outstanding, always ensuring that no one is left out. He even makes sure that veterans who cannot walk the parade distance have access to military vehicles. He organizes "Vintage Warbirds" to perform flyovers for the approximately 40,000 spectators of all ages that fill the downtown streets below, with faces full of pride and wonder, there to cheer on our veterans past and present, often honoring their own loved ones.

Kemmerle's vision, dedication and hard work has made this beloved event the largest Veteran's Day Parade in Northern California, if not in the whole state. During the parade, military color guards and vehicles, drill teams, and specialty units march along on the ground with the traditional floats, horses, antique cars, fire engines, bands and

scout troops. Historically, a short memorial ceremony at Walnut Park follows the parade.

According to Kemmerle, parade coordinator from American Legion Post 28, participation in this year's parade could top more than 200 entries and 1700 individuals. In the early '90s, the number of parade entries reached 100. Kemmerle dates the official start of the parade from 1986, when 50 veterans joined 92-year-old Julius Forcucci, who carried the American flag, during an annual trek through Historic Downtown. Other sources say the event has been taking place in Petaluma for more than 80 years.

The Good Egg award was started nearly 34 years

ago and the honor is given every year to a person whose "egg-ceptional efforts" have helped to preserve and contribute to the positive promotion of Petaluma and its history," said Marie McCusker, Executive Director of the Petaluma Downtown Association, producers of the Butter & Egg Days Parade. "We are honored to induct Steve Kemmerle into the Good Egg Hall of Fame for his dedication and service to Petaluma and its residents."

Kemmerle will be honored at the Butter & Egg Days Parade's opening ceremonies at noon on April 18 and will ride in the parade on April 25.

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