



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN LEGION, CITY OF TAYLOR TO HOST INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE Event Will Be Modified to Accommodate COVID-19 Health and Safety Concerns

TAYLOR, Texas – Like many events in 2020, the traditional Independence Day Parade in the City of Taylor will have a bit of a different flavor this year. The City is working with officers at the American Legion, Graham D Luhn Post 39, who have traditionally organized the parade, to plan a vehicle-only event that will allow participants and observers to practice COVID-19 social distancing and safety protocols consistent with recommendations from the CDC and local health officials. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, July 4, from 10 a.m. to noon.

While this year's parade will not include many of the elements that Taylor residents have enjoyed in past years, it will have a longer route so that more people can celebrate from the safety of their own yards. Decorated vehicles, led by the City of Taylor Fire Department, will follow a 10-mile route that will begin at the Naomi Pasemann Elementary School parking lot (2809 North Dr.) and end at Murphy Park (1600 Veteran's Drive). To ensure the health and safety of all involved, only 30 vehicles from the greater Taylor community will be included on the longer-than-usual parade route, and participants must register in advance using a form available on the City's website.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwayne Ariola, who serves as vice commander at Post 39, said this year's celebration will be different from those in the past, but will still be a tribute worthy of the holiday. "While we emphasize the importance of promoting health and safety while the COVID-19 pandemic is still in our community, we want to ensure that our residents still have the opportunity to observe our nation's independence with the fanfare it deserves. We hope that everyone will get into the spirit of holiday and celebrate this great nation we are all fortunate enough to call home. It's going to be a great day."

To participate in the parade, residents must be driving a motorized vehicle in one of four categories: car, truck, motorcycle, or truck and trailer combination. All participants must remain

inside the motorized vehicle for the duration of the parade — no one will be allowed to ride in the back of a truck or on a trailer being towed by a motorized vehicle. There will be no candy or other items thrown from the entries, and no political or commercial messaging will be permitted. Participants are required to decorate their vehicles with a patriotic theme, and must register in advance on the City's website, taylortx.gov.

Observers of the parade are encouraged to practice social distancing. City officials recommend that members of the same household stay at least six feet apart from other households if watching the parade from the sidewalk or yard, and masks are encouraged if social distancing is not possible. Participants will not be exiting their vehicles or visiting with observers, and officials ask that observers refrain from walking up to the vehicles.

A map of the parade route will be posted the week prior to the event. Additional parade details will be posted on the websites of the City of Taylor and the American Legion, as well as the City's social media platforms. For additional information, please visit taylortx.gov or call the Communications Office at 512-352-5448.