



## Press Release

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Subject: Fairfield Downtown Association – Veterans Day Grand Marshal Announcement

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The American Legion – Reams Post 182, the National Association of Uniformed Services Pacific Gateway Chapter #4 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have selected the 2009 Veterans Day Commemoration Grand Marshals.

**Colonel James C. Vechery** is the commander of the 60<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base. Commissioned in 1988 following graduation from the University of Maryland, he served as commander at the squadron and wing level. His staff assignments include serving as the MAJCOM Regional Director of Operations, Tanker Airlift Control Center, Chief of Airlift Manning, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Programmer for C-5 Mobility Forces at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, and Chief Air Force Legislative Affairs, United States Transportation Command. Prior to his assignment at Travis, Colonel Vechery was Commander, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, KS.

**Bonita Adrienne Knuckles** joined the United States Air Force Reserve as a medical technician immediately after high school. Since the age of five, she envisioned herself in a nursing uniform so Ms. Knuckles became an active duty airman as a medical technician. She achieved the Distinguished Graduate of the Non-commissioned Officer Academy in addition to Medical Technician of the Year. In 1992, she was selected as 1 of 10 medics to attend nursing school as an Air Force student at Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. She graduated with Honors with an Associate of Science degree in Nursing and graduated on the Dean's list with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of South Florida, Tampa. After a commission as an officer in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps, she retired honorably as a Major. With her Master of Science degree in Nursing, her goal is to open care homes for the elderly.

**Colonel (Doctor) Brian P. Hayes** is the commander of the 60<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, David Grant USAF Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, and California. DGMC is a premier U.S. Air Force Medical Center serving 88,000 beneficiaries. After receiving his medical degree from the University Of Miami School Of Medicine in 1990, he entered active duty and completed a General Surgery Internship at David Grant USAF Medical Center. Serving in various flight surgeon leadership positions during the following nine years he redesigned flight surgeon deployment kits, established eyewear and hearing protection standards for C-17 aircraft, developed an innovative method to palletize patients for aero medical evacuation and led the AE mission repatriating three POWs held in Yugoslavia. In 2001, Colonel Hayes returned to academics and earned a Master of Public Health Degree from Harvard University. Serving as the 92<sup>nd</sup> aero medical-Dental Squadron Commander at Fairfield Air Force Base, Washington; Colonel Hayes developed leaders to provide comprehensive health promotion, preventive services, and medical care to 24,000 beneficiaries of the 92 ARW and Northwest Region.

In 2006, Colonel Hayes served as commander of the 90<sup>th</sup> Medical Group and director of base medical services at Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

**Betty Livingston** joined the United States Air Force Nurse Corps in 1955 where she was stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah. She received her flight nursing diploma from the Air University United States Air Force School of Aviation Medicine at Gunter Air Force Base in Alabama. In 1958, Ms. Livingston was honorably discharged. Only two years later, she joined the United States Navy Nurse Corps and was stationed at Balboa Navy Hospital in San Diego, California; Kodiak, Alaska; Jacksonville, Florida; Whidbey Island, Washington; and the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hawthorne, Nevada until her discharge in 1979. Ms. Livingston has been a resident of Fairfield for the last 20 years where she serves as a Community Resource Commissioner and volunteers with the Fairfield Center for Creative Arts and the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

**Colonel Amy K. McDaniels** is the Chief Nurse, 60<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California and directs standards for nursing care practice in 5 inpatient units, ambulatory surgery unit and 30 clinics. After tours of duty in New Mexico, Athens, Greece, and the Republic of the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan, Colonel McDaniels was selected for a dual graduate degree program at the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1997. She received a MBA and Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Colorado and University Health Sciences Center in 1999. Colonel McDaniels is Chairperson of the Nurse Executive Committee and a member of the Air Force Nurse Corps Executive Council.

**John R. Lathrop** entered the service in Erie Pennsylvania in 1950 and was assigned to aerospace medicine at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. After medical/surgical school he was assigned to Brooks Air Force Base in Texas for Aero-medical flying of injured patients. Upon completion of the Aero-medical Technician Course in Alabama, Mr. Lathrop was sent to Korea Det. 1 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Sea Rescue Squadron in May of 1951 to fly as a medical technician on H-5 and H-19 helicopter rescuing down pilots and front medical evacuation. In June of 1952, he was assigned to the 1732<sup>nd</sup> air transportation Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California flying the wounded and injured on C-54's, C-118's, C-74's, and C-97's where he remained until 1955. Transferred to Goose Bay Labrador, he was assigned to Air Sea Rescue. Mr. Lathrop was an instructor and flight examiner at Rhein Main Air Base in Germany. In 1959, he returned to Travis until 1965 when he was transferred to Det-1 2<sup>nd</sup> Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron Athenia Airport, Athens, Greece coordinating with Rhein Main Air Base in Germany.

This commemoration will be held on November 11, 2009. The event begins at the Fairfield Center for Creative Arts (1035 Texas Street) with a 10:00 a.m. concert of patriotic-themed music. A Ceremony of Remembrance will immediately follow the concert. At 12:30 p.m. the Veterans Day Parade will begin.

Our theme this year is "Duty, Honor, Country". On May 12, 1962 at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in General Douglas MacArthur spoke, "Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be."

Sponsors for the 2009 Veterans Day Commemoration are American Legion – Reams Post 182, the National Association of Uniformed Services Pacific Gateway Chapter #4, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Fairfield Downtown Association, the Fairfield Redevelopment Agency, Sheldon Gas Company, Concerto Network, S&J Advertising and KUIC.

Contact Lennie-Jane at 707.422.0103 for information about participation and volunteer opportunities.