

WLKY.com

Louisville Honors Veterans With Parade

Andy Alcock/WLKY

POSTED: 5:23 pm EST November 11, 2011

UPDATED: 6:38 pm EST November 11, 2011

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- For the first time since the end of the second world war, a major Veterans Day parade was held in downtown Louisville.

Veterans of all ages and active duty military marched down historic West Main Street on Friday.

The number of the day was certainly 11. The date was Nov. 11, 2011, and the parade started at 11:11 a.m. The time coincided with the exact time the armistice took effect ending World War I 93 years ago.

Related To Story



 Click Like For Louisville News

Updates:

The 113th Army band from Fort Knox led the Veterans Day parade down Main Street.

It also featured a C-130 fly-by, a joint services color guard and veterans of all ages showered by red, white and blue confetti.

Among the honored guests were local members of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, including Frank Weaver.

"I'm honored to be part of this veterans parade and blessed," said Weaver.

"I think we are the greatest generation, and I only hope that America can stay strong," said World War II veteran Ted Stumpf.

To that end, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer noted the unemployment rate for veterans is one-third higher than for everyone else, a figure he called scandalous.

"Our reaction to veterans both when they serve and when they come home defines us both as a community and as a nation," said Fischer.

The mayor pointed with pride to progress on longstanding plans to build a new Louisville veterans hospital.

Rep. John Yarmuth is also concerned other veterans fall through the cracks of the Department of Veterans Affairs, noting roughly one-quarter of Louisville's homeless people are veterans.

To help address that problem, Yarmuth announced a nearly \$800,000 grant for the Volunteers of America to provide a veterans transition program.

"What most of them just need is a little bit of help, guidance, counseling (and) sometimes substance

abuse therapy," said Yarmuth.



GET
BREAKING NEWS
ALERTS HERE

While there's work to be done, Weaver remembers a day when he was a pioneer in a racially segregated society, and now living to see an African-American president.

"I think America's really moving forward. We have made much progress," said Weaver.

As for the new VA hospital, Yarmuth said he is pleased Veterans Affairs listened to veterans and moved the location from downtown Louisville to near Brownsboro Road and the Gene Snyder Freeway where more services are available.

He said construction should begin on that project next year, and it could be completed in the next five or six years.

Previous Stories:

- November 11, 2011: [Louisville Hosts 1st Veterans Day Parade In Decades](#)

Copyright 2011 by WLKY.com. ©2011 Hearst Properties Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.