



Farmington Hills Chief William Dwyer speaks about officer Jim Jarrett before giving Jarrett the American Legion Officer of the Year Award.



Veterans wave to parade watchers at Farmington Hills Memorial Day parade Monday morning.

PARADE

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organizing the event for about 35 years.

Christensen said the parade has become an important part of Farmington's tradition.

"I have to say I'm very proud of our community," he said. "How they come out and make it happen every year is just wonderful."

The parade also featured several local scout troops and veterans groups, as well as representation from Michigan

Military Moms, who's founder Susan Klutz was this year's honorary parade marshal.

In addition to the various groups parading down Grand River, spectators got a special treat when two F-16 jets roared across the sky.

At a ceremony in Memorial Park, Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell spoke about the military's ongoing obligation to control the threat of terrorism both at home and around the globe. Sept. 11, he said, changed the way people look at the world.

"America is expected to be the guardians of the free world," he said. "This is a tremendous

responsibility." Others spoke of terrorism, as well.

"Today, thousands of U.S. servicemen remain in Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea, Bosnia, and in lesser numbers in over 120 countries around the world, where the mission stands out terrorism...continues," said keynote speaker Captain John B. Phillips III of the U.S. Marine Corps.

"That's why your attendance at this Memorial Day ceremony is so important," he told the crowd. "It sends a clear signal that America stands behind our Armed forces."

Along with military veterans,

the city of Farmington also honored Daniel Potter with the public safety officer of the year award.

In Farmington Hills, James Jarrett was named police officer of the year, and Larry Henderson was honored as the city's firefighter of the year.

Along Grand River, friends and family gathered together as a community.

"It's nice that everyone came out today," said Lloyd Haycock of Farmington, a World War II veteran who noted that American patriotism seems to have diminished since he served in the Army Air Corps during the 40s.

"Everyone was employed in some kind of a war effort back then," he said. "Today, it's a different time. People forget."

But for those who showed up Monday at Farmington's parade, patriotism was alive and well.

"More people need to get together like this for the right reasons, rather than sitting at home watching TV," said Roy Brandt of Farmington Hills, who watched the parade with his wife Ernestine.

Brandt said he has also seen American patriotism fading in recent years.

"I'm not sure how we get back around to the way things

used to be," he said, "but one thing is to show up at parades and show kids what it's all about."

Pat Hickey of Farmington has been bringing his kids to the Memorial Day Parade for years.

"We can never truly appreciate what went on during the wars," said Hickey. "Even very graphic movies like Saving Private Ryan don't tell it like it really was."

For that reason, he said, he and his family attend the parade every year to honor those who served in the United States military - rain or shine.

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