



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Team RWB-Founder Mike Erwin to Serve as Honorary Marshal of 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade**

**NEW YORK, July 2, 2018** – The United War Veterans Council (UWVC) announced that U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. Mike Erwin will serve as an Honorary Marshal of the 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade.

Erwin, who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2002, was commissioned as an intelligence officer for three combat tours with the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). His service during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005 and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006-2007 and 2009 earned him two Bronze Star Medals.

In 2010, Erwin founded Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB), whose mission it is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their communities through physical and social activity. Team RWB has over 143,000 members and 204 chapters across the country. Mike volunteered as the Executive Director for three years and continues to serve on the Board of Directors. Today, he serves as an Assistant Professor in Leadership & Psychology at West Point, is co-founder & president of the Positivity Project – a non-profit aiming to empower America's youth to build positive relationships – and is CEO of the Character & Leadership Center.

“Lieutenant Colonel Erwin has shown outstanding commitment and dedication to the veteran community, founding an organization that helps veterans reconnect with their communities – a task that initially seems insurmountable to many of us,” said Mark Otto, UWVC Executive Director and U.S. Marine Corps veteran. “We’re honored to have Mike as our Marshal and look forward to marching with him in November.”

Erwin will march alongside Grand Marshal and Medal of Honor-Recipient Florent Groberg. The featured service branch for this year's parade is the U.S. Army, in which both Erwin and Groberg served. This year's Parade also holds special significance, as it honors the centennial of World War One, which ended with the signing of an armistice on November 11, 1918. Over 4.7 million Americans served in WWI; nearly 117,000 lost their lives, most while serving in France.

“Veterans have played critical roles throughout our nation's history, from battlefields across the world to thousands of communities here in America,” said Erwin. “This parade celebrates their bravery, but also their leadership and on-going service to the country. I am humbled and inspired to serve as the Honorary Marshal of the 2018 NYC Veterans Day parade, and to represent the 100,000 veterans in Team Red, White & Blue who are continuing to serve and lead throughout America today!”

Erwin joins the ranks of past distinguished Marshals and Parade Honorees, including astronaut Buzz Aldrin, actor Tony Curtis, and TV legend Normal Lear, as well as local NYC heroes. For more information, and to apply to participate in the 2018 Veterans Day parade, visit [uwvc.org/vetsday](http://uwvc.org/vetsday)

**About the United War Veterans Council**



The United War Veterans Council, Inc. (UWVC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that honors and serves veterans. We achieve this goal by supporting and promoting a wide range of initiatives that provide vital services to our veterans community (including health, wellness and education), raising positive awareness and increasing public understanding of the needs of our veterans, military service members and their families through major public events and promotional activities, and uniting veterans groups, community organizations, government agencies, businesses of all sizes and the general public. For more information, visit [www.uwvc.org](http://www.uwvc.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

#### **About the New York City Veterans Day Parade**

The New York City Veterans Day Parade is our nation's largest event honoring service. Produced by the United War Veterans Council (UWVC), the Parade provides the public with the opportunity to salute our veterans and military, and raises awareness for organizations working to serve their needs. It is the centerpiece of an annual citywide effort to honor our veterans community. This year's parade marks the centennial of the end of the First World War (1918 ~ 2018), with the U.S. Army as its featured service. For more information, visit [www.uwvc.org/vetsday](http://www.uwvc.org/vetsday).