

## **Medal of Honor Recipient Florent Groberg to Serve as Grand Marshal of 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade**

**NEW YORK, June 14, 2018** – On the occasion of the 243rd birthday of the United States Army, the United War Veterans Council (UWVC), producers of the annual New York City Veterans Day Parade, announced that the Grand Marshal of the 2018 parade is retired U.S. Army Captain Florent Groberg.

Born in France, Groberg became an American citizen in 2001 and joined the U.S. Army in 2008. He received the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor, for heroic acts during his service in Afghanistan in 2012. Groberg identified a suicide bomber targeting his formation and physically tackled the individual, causing both the initial attacker and a second bomber to prematurely detonate their devices. Groberg's quick thinking and courage saved many lives, including those of senior U.S. and Afghan commanders. He himself was severely wounded in the action. Medically retired in 2015, Groberg is an active advocate for veterans and their needs.

Groberg will lead the 2018 NYC Veterans Day Parade – the nation's largest and most prominent Veterans Day event – on Sunday, November 11, along Fifth Avenue, in the heart of Manhattan. The featured service branch for this year's parade is the U.S. Army, in which 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.

“Captain Groberg's heroism in uniform and continued commitment to our veterans embodies the very essence of what service to our nation is about,” said Mark Otto, UWVC Executive Director and U.S. Marine Corps veteran. “This year, as we honor and reflect on the service and legacy of our veterans, there is no more fitting host and ambassador for our parade, both here in the U.S. and around the world.”

“It is a great honor to serve as the Grand Marshall of the 2018 NYC Veterans Day Parade,” said Groberg. “Just 100 years ago, more than 41 million lives were lost during World War One. France, one of our greatest allies, lost well over a million citizens. As a naturalized United States citizen born in France, I truly appreciate 'The American Dream', and understand the importance and value of the bonds we share with our allies. As our history has shown us, alliances are forged by brave men and women willing to sacrifice their lives for the greater good of the nation and the world. God Bless America and her allies.”

Groberg joins the ranks of past distinguished Grand 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).