



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BVSJ-Founder Job Mashariki to Serve as Honorary Marshal of 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade**

**NEW YORK, August 28, 2018** – The United War Veterans Council (UWVC) announced that Job Mashariki, founder of Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ), will serve as an Honorary Marshal of the 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Mashariki founded BVSJ 1979 in Brooklyn with the mission to provide assistance to service members struggling to reintegrate into society after the Vietnam War, particularly those from underserved communities. Many returning veterans faced indifference or even hostility for their service, which was compounded by lack of access to medical and rehabilitative services, and unemployment. These issues were particularly pronounced in minority populations and neighborhoods throughout New York City. Mashariki, a New York native, stepped forward alongside veterans from all branches of the military to meet these needs. Today, BVSJ has evolved into a Brooklyn fixture and provides a wide range of programs and services, including housing, employment, food, security and medical care.

“Job Mashariki, has shown compassion, courage and commitment to New York City’s veterans for over forty years and counting,” said Mark Otto, UWVC executive director and U.S. Marine Corps veteran. “Job founded BVSJ to help the most overlooked members of our community, at a time when supporting veterans was neither popular nor fashionable. We thank him for his longtime service and look forward to marching with him.”

Mashariki recently retired as president of BVSJ and now spends his time as a devoted father and husband. Mashariki is the definition of an institution builder. In addition to founding BVSJ, he has also served on several boards including the Fort Greene Senior Citizens’ Council, the National Association of Black Veterans and was a prominent member of the community activist group that worked to establish the Institution of Higher Learning at Brooklyn’s Medgar Evers College.

“When I returned home from service, veterans service benefits were next to nothing or obsolete, a problem that was especially pronounced in communities of color,” says Mashariki. “We’re moving in the right direction, but there’s work still to do – I believe every veteran should be afforded housing for their family, gainful employment, respect and love.”

Mashariki will join fellow honorary marshals, Mike Erwin, the founder of Team Red, White and Blue founder and Jason McCarthy, a former Special Forces communications sergeant, alongside Grand Marshal and Medal of Honor-Recipient, Florent Groberg.

For more information on the marshals and participating in the 2018 New York City Veterans Day parade, please 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).