



CITY OF STUART PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ben Hogarth
Community Services
Phone: (772) 288-5333
bhogarth@ci.stuart.fl.us

CITY OF STUART, 121 SW FLAGLER AVENUE, STUART, FLORIDA 34994
WWW.CITYOFSTUART.US

September 23, 2016

Stuart Joins Patriot Honor Ride in Ceremonial Flag Raising

Stuart, FL – On Saturday, September 24th at 10 a.m. the City of Stuart will host Colonel Gary West (USAF Ret.) for a ceremonial flag raising at Memorial Park.

Colonel West through his personally organized "Patriot Honor Ride" has been engaged in a 2,500 mile solo bicycle ride to honor disabled and fallen veterans; which began in Maine and will conclude on October 1st in Key West, FL. Throughout his military career, Colonel West flew both the F-15 (Eagle) and F-16 (Falcon) in over 130 combat missions in Iraq and Bosnia; in addition to serving as a squadron and group commander in service around the world. Colonel West was also at the Pentagon on September 11th, 2001 during the terrorist attacks; he currently serves as the Operations Pastor for Chapel Springs Church, based out of Bristow, VA.

"The Patriot Honor Ride is not an organization. It is simply the name given to a personal mission organized by retired USAF Col. Gary West, to honor families of fallen and disabled service men and women," according to the Patriot Honor Ride website. "His 2500 mile solo bicycle ride serves to provide opportunity for the public to remember the cost of freedom and to honor the lives of families who had paid the brutal price of war," it says. Patriot Honor Ride also states through its website that 100 percent of all donations are dedicated to educational scholarships for the spouses and children of the fallen and disabled American military heroes.

"The City of Stuart has always been a strong supporter of our men and women in uniform and we are proud to be a part of a legacy that will further honor our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our way of life," says City of Stuart Commissioner Troy McDonald.

Joining other communities in 15 States & Washington D.C., Stuart will fly one of 16 flags representing 15 Folds of Honor recipient families on Saturday morning. Each flag has been flown and ceremonially folded, over and over, by American citizens, groups, and organizations during Colonel West's 2,500 mile trek along the U.S. East Coast. "I have been blown away with the patriotic response by the folks here in Florida," says Colonel West. "I hope the good people of Stuart will join us for a brief honoring flag ceremony as we remember the families of the fallen."

For more information on the Patriot Honor Ride, please visit: <http://patriothonorride.com/>.

###

