

## Veteran's Day Parade rolls through downtown Louisville

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By Katie Delaune



LOUISVILLE, Ky (WDRB) -- A military convoy representing nearly every branch of service received a hero's welcome on Veteran's Day.

"I think it's wonderful. The veterans of this country deserve not only the parade but they deserve much more," says Wendell Littlefield, dressed in a military uniform from the Revolutionary War.

It's the first Veteran's Parade to roll in downtown Louisville in years. And where else but on Main Street would you see patriotism at its finest -- from flags flying to folks clapping on their war heroes. "I think it's fantastic," says parade-goer Ruth Ann Shumate. "I don't think we do nearly enough for our military veterans and families."

While many of these veterans will return to a family and home, a growing number will go back to the streets. According to the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs, of the 340,000 veterans in the Commonwealth, 3500 are homeless.

"I loved it. Everyday was different," says military veteran Phonecia Carney about her service. She is part of the statistic, veterans facing homelessness after returning from war. She joined the army in 1998, but faced a tough time readjusting when she left after five years.

"The military, they actually took care of everything for me as far as paying my rent and everything and so I didn't have to worry about paying bills so when I got back home it wasn't something that I was used to," says Carney.

She says Volunteers of America family emergency shelter helped her get those crucial life skills and find a permanent house for her family. Now VOA will help more people like Carney after receiving a 780-thousand dollar grant Friday to launch Supportive Services for Veterans and Families.

It helps, "By providing a lifetime of counseling, job training, housing support and most of all hope," said U.S. Congressman John Yarmuth during a ceremony at the VOA. The SSVG program will serve a minimum of 200 veteran families, employing staff of 11 employees who will work with providers of affordable housing to both prevent homelessness for their qualifying residents and to place homeless residents in affordable housing.

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