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HONOR, SUPPORT AND SERVE AMERICA'S VETERANS

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REMEMBERING PAT GUALTIERI: We say farewell to a veterans icon



MEMORIAL DAY 2015: Remembering the fallen throughout NYC



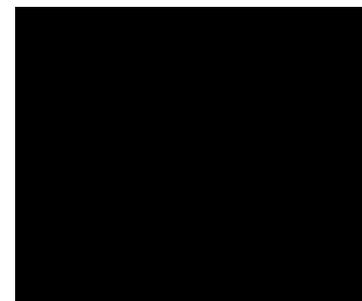
VIETNAM VETERANS DAY: Reflecting on the commemoration



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PRESERVING THE LEGACY



How the United War Veterans Council saved the NYC Veterans Day Parade

On July 21, 2015, the United War Veterans Council lost our dear friend and longtime colleague Pat Gualtieri.

Pat was instrumental in bringing UWVC and the NYC Veterans Day Parade (America's Parade) to the level of prominence they currently enjoy. In doing so, he helped our entire veterans community have a greater public voice in New York City and across America.

We encourage you to explore the links below to learn about memorial arrangements, share your thoughts, and read the coverage of Pat's passing.

He will be missed.

* * * *

Memorial service/visitation information:

Cusimano & Russo Funeral Home
2005 West 6th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11223.

Visitation: Saturday, July 23; 2 – 5 p.m. and 7 – 10 p.m.

Memorial Service: Sunday, July 24; 11a.m. – 2 p.m.

Guestbook

Articles/Obituaries

- [New York Daily News](#)
- [Brooklyn Eagle](#)

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VALENTINE'S DAY: Bringing love to those who serve



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Pat Gualtieri, NYC Veterans Day Parade savior, dies at 70

Active content re

BY LARRY MCSHANE / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 2:07 PM

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MILLER ELISA

Pat Gualtieri, who was instrumental in reviving the Veterans Day Parade in New York City, died after a short illness.

RELATED STORIES

Brooklyn-born Pat Gualtieri, a Vietnam veteran who helped resuscitate the city's faltering Veterans Day Parade with his indefatigable spirit and charm, died Tuesday.

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Veterans Parade organizer keeps honor front & center

Gualtieri, 70, passed away after a short illness.

The one-time Los Angeles event planner became involved with the annual honoring of the nation's war heroes in 2000 — when the parade appeared in danger of going MIA after years of decline.

Under his guidance, the event became the nation's largest celebration of military service with more than 25,000 participants and a crowd numbering in the tens of thousands.

"The veterans community mourns the loss of a giant who devoted his life to honoring those who served," said Vincent McGowan, founding president of the National War Veterans Council.



ANDREW SAVULICH/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

"The veterans community mourns the loss of a giant who devoted his life to honoring those who served," said Vincent McGowan, the National War Veterans Council president, of Gualtieri.

"Pat's boundless energy and unflagging good will helped drive our efforts to shape a world-class effort to honor service on Nov. 11 and every day of the year."

Gualtieri, the grandson of Italian immigrants, was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966 and shipped to Vietnam for a one-year tour as an automatic weapons

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crewman.

The end of his military service overlapped with the 1968 Tet Offensive, and he once recounted laying in the jungle as an American gunship blasted away at North Vietnamese fighters.

"I had mixed feelings," he said. "Happy to be alive, yet saddened that so many would die."



SAM COSTANZA

Gualtieri was drafted in 1966 and went on to work as an event planner in Los Angeles before he came back to New York and saved the declining parade.

He is survived by daughters Tara Mendelson and Gayla Gualtieri; his brother, Joseph; a grandson and a granddaughter; and his life partner, Marleen "Molly" Levi.

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He returned in March 1968, eventually relocating to the West Coast after a cross-country drive to Oakland. He eventually landed in Los Angeles and became a well-known event planner — often running charity events.

He returned decades later to help with his mother, who was battling Alzheimer's disease, and wound up working on the city's Veterans Day Parade in 2000.

Gualtieri said he never attended the event until he worked on the first one in the new millennium, but he never left once he became involved. Among the famous veterans honored during his run with the parade were actor Tony Curtis and Mayor Ed Koch.

A wake is scheduled for Saturday at Cusimano & Russo Funeral Home in Brooklyn from 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Details on a Sunday service were not yet finalized.