



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Announcement of 2021 Veteran of the Year Award Planned During Kalamazoo County Veterans Day Ceremony

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Veterans Service Office of Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department in conjunction with The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo-Sunrise and with support from the Kalamazoo Veterans Event Committee is inviting the community to the 2021 Kalamazoo County Veterans Day Ceremony. The event will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at The Robert L. Cook Veterans Memorial Plaza at Rose Park (East Michigan Avenue at King Highway).

The program includes speakers, music, poetry readings, tributes to veterans, and the announcement of the 2021 Veteran of the Year Award. The event's principal speaker is, Luke Schrader, veteran, realtor, and member of the Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee. Honor guards are expected from the United States Marine Corps, Kalamazoo City Department of Public Safety, and the Western Michigan University Army ROTC. Music will be provided by the Kalamazoo Pipe Band, Prof. Scott Thornburg, and Ms. Grace Kalafut. In the event of bad weather, the event will be held onsite in a tent.

The third annual 2021 Kalamazoo County Veteran of the Year Award will be presented to James Saur. Mr. Saur is a retired Air Force officer with twenty-six years of active service. During his career he served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He retired in 1990 and became active in the Joseph B. Westledge Post 36 of the American Legion where he was the driving force to keeping the organization open and increasing membership. Mr. Saur is an advocate for veterans and veteran families throughout Kalamazoo County.

For additional information about the event, please contact the Kalamazoo County Veterans Service Office at 269-373-5361.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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