



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF BAYONNE

630 AVENUE C • BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY 07002-3898
TEL. (201) 858-6010 • FAX (201) 436-2413

JAMES DAVIS, *MAYOR*



May 14, 2024 (PLEASE PLACE WITH PHOTO.)

For immediate release:

Joseph Kochanski Named Grand Marshal of the Bayonne Memorial Day Parade

The Bayonne Memorial Day Parade Committee announced that it has named Joseph Kochanski as Grand Marshal of the 2024 Bayonne Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Kochanski is a Vietnam veteran of the U.S. Army.

Joe Kochanski was born and raised in Bayonne and attended S.A. Roberson Grammar School and the Technical Division of Bayonne High School, from which he graduated in 1964. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army and received his basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Upon completion, he was stationed in Fort Rucker, Alabama where he received aviation training. When transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia, Joe was assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division which then became the First Air Cavalry Division. Upon deployment, his unit, the 48th Assault Helicopter Company, known as the Blue Stars and Jokers, was assigned to support the First Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and its two airborne infantry battalions. As part of the United States troop buildup in 1965, his tour with the 101st was spent on

combat operations in several areas of South Vietnam, also supporting the Republic of Korea Second Marine Brigade, the 5th Special Forces, and units of the Republic of Vietnam Forces. His duties were flying door gunner and maintaining UH1D and UH1B Huey helicopters within the unit. His duties also included performing base camp security and convoy duty. Upon his return from Vietnam, he was assigned to Fort Eustis, Virginia where he trained soldiers for deployment to Vietnam.

Joe has served as president of Chapter 151 Vietnam Veterans of America as well as a tour guide at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel. He is a life member of Chapter 800 Vietnam Veterans of America, Catholic War Veterans Post 1612, First Calvary Division NJ/NY Chapter and VFW Post 226 where he serves as Chaplain and tour guide. He is also a member of the VFW and Catholic War Veterans color guards.

A few of Joe's proudest accomplishments have involved designing. He designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which is erected in Dennis P. Collins Park. Joe also designed and dedicated a park to his best friend, Marine L/Cpl Stanley J. Kopcinski, who was the first casualty from Bayonne during the Vietnam War. Joe was honored to be the recipient of the L/Cpl Stanley J. Kopcinski Award and the Four Chaplains Award. He was also inducted into Bayonne's Field of Heroes.

Joe retired from AT&T after 31 years of service in the computer field and then worked for several years with IBM and Chubb Insurance. Joe still resides in Bayonne with his wife Carol of 55 years. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.

This year, Memorial Day is Monday, May 27. The Bayonne Memorial Day events will begin with a brief ceremony at 5th and Dodge Streets at 10:00 a.m. The parade will begin immediately after the ceremony at 5th and Dodge Streets. It will proceed northwards up Broadway from 5th Street to 32nd Street.