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Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **World War II Combat Veteran and Japanese Prisoner of War Fiske Hanley to be Grand Marshall of Corsicana Veterans Parade 2019**

**Corsicana, Texas** – The Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana, Texas is pleased to announce the Grand Marshall of the 2019 parade on Saturday May 18, 2019, will be Fiske Hanley, a World War II combat veteran and former Japanese POW.

During his 7<sup>th</sup> combat bombing mission in early 1945, his B29 was shot down over Japan. Only 2 of the 10 crew members parachuted out of the flaming aircraft. He was taken prisoner by the Kempei Tai Military Police. The Japanese treated every B29 crewman as war criminals, not Prisoners of War. Mr. Hanley was placed into a category called “Special Prisoner,” which resulted in receiving very severe and harsh treatment. He survived months of torture and confinement until his release from captivity after the Japanese surrender.

General Douglas MacArthur the Supreme Allied Commander in the Pacific invited Hanley to the deck of a ship in Tokyo Harbor, where he watched the momentous activities as the unconditional surrender treaty was signed aboard the battleship USS Missouri.

Corsicana has a long history of Veterans Parades. The World War II Armistice Parade of 1918 and the 1945 World War II Victory Parade and Rodeo drew thousands of Texans from across the Lone Star State.

Mr. Fiske will follow in footsteps of the most decorated American serviceman from World War II, Audie Murphy who was the Grand Marshall of the last Veterans Parade in Corsicana 74 years ago.

A lifelong resident of Ft Worth, Mr, Hanley graduated from Pascal High School in 1938 and Texas Tech University in 1943. "Over 2,000 flyers like me were shot down over Japan during the War" said Fiske "Only 200 of us survived the war." He also said "My life and the lives of thousands of other POW's were saved by the Atomic bomb. The Japanese had orders to execute all American prisoners the minute the invasion of the Japanese mainland commenced."

Mr. Hanley is portrayed in a Tom Hanks film at the World War II Museum in New Orleans called **Beyond all Boundaries**. Bill McNutt, the Founder of the Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana and a friend of Mr. Hanley spoke about the book written by Fiske. "Accused America War Criminal" is a must read about Japanese atrocities to our brave airmen. Corsicana is one of the most patriotic towns in Texas and I know our good citizens will want to bring their children and grandchildren to the parade and have a photo made with Lt. Hanley. This is an important teaching moment for all who come out the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May to downtown Corsicana."

When asked about his upcoming trip to Corsicana to serve as the Grand Marshall of the Corsicana Parade Fiske Hanley said "Parades are important. I remember marching as a Boy Scout in Texas Independence Day Parades and the Ft Worth Stock Show Parades back in the 1930's. Children love parades and it demonstrates to them they come from a community that cares about veterans and honors veterans."

Retired Navy Captain, and Corsicana resident, Joe Hill, the Co-Chairman of this years parade said " We need Corsicana youth groups to march in the Parade. We also need vintage military vehicles and local service clubs to have floats. Please contact me at 903 257 5919 with your ideas."

### **About the TexasVeterans Parade, Corsicana**

*The Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana exists to honor Texas Veterans from all Wars and Conflicts. To teach our children about the sacrifices of Veterans, liberty and freedom. Our website is [www.texasveteransparade.com](http://www.texasveteransparade.com)*

*The parade will start at ten AM on Saturday May 18, 2019 at the Navarro County Courthouse in Corsicana, Texas*

*Members of the Board of Directors of the Parade include Ned Easternling, Roger Hardie, Larry Hodges, Bryan Jewel, Tripp Bryant, Mary Ann McCalpin, Brian McDaniel, Roy Messick, Billy Richardson, Connie Standridge, Gerry York, Don Summerall, Chris Woolse, Kathy Meistchleger, and 19 additional board members.*

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