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## News Release: DeRoos to Lead Patriotic Ceremony

**Storm Lake, Iowa** (June 27, 2022) – Louis DeRoos, Executive Director of Veteran Affairs for Buena Vista County, will serve as speaker for the 2022 Storm Lake Star Spangled Spectacular Patriotic Ceremony at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 4 in Chautauqua Park.

The Alta native and Iowa Army National Guard retiree has a long history with the military—including four years of active duty deployment.

DeRoos' first deployment was for Operation Noble Eagle in Lima, Ohio where he guarded the Lima Army Tank Plant. His second deployment led him to Camp Al Asad Air Base for 16 months for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2010, DeRoos was deployed to serve the country in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan for one year.

He also served as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic and worked for 12 years as a civil technician in the Storm Lake maintenance shop. After 22 years, DeRoos, 50, retired in 2012 as a Sergeant First Class E-7, Platoon Sergeant, and Motor Sergeant for the Fox Company 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division nicknamed the "Red Bulls."

According to DeRoos, the most important of all of his positions is that of his current role with Veteran Affairs. "The patriots of our nation have helped make this the best country in the world, and it's important that we recognize the freedoms which have been handed down to us from previous generations," he says.

DeRoos graduated from Alta High School in 1991 before attending Iowa Lakes Community College. After one semester, he determined a trade would better suit him and the future he had planned for himself. DeRoos has worked in wind generators, forklift and paving equipment tech., as well as truck driving.

"I've lived in the area my whole life, and I'm so honored to have the privilege to speak at the Star Spangled Spectacular," he says. "I was born to be a patriot; it's in my family, and it's in my blood."

### **About the Star Spangled Spectacular**

A favorite Northwest Iowa tradition, Storm Lake's annual Star Spangled Spectacular celebrates Independence Day along the City's beautiful shores. The family-friendly event is held July 3-4 and welcomes fresh entertainment and returning favorites such as The Big Parade, food and shopping vendors, a classic Car Cruise, the Ride-Run, fireworks, a Patriotic Ceremony, a Kiddie Parade, and more. Visit [www.starspangledspectacular.net](http://www.starspangledspectacular.net).

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