



P.O. Box 457
Storm Lake, IA 50588

News Release: Storm Lake Fire Department Honored as 2023 Spectacular Parade Grand Marshals

Storm Lake, Iowa (June 9, 2023) – Jared and Ty Eggers, Star Spangled Spectacular 2023 commodores, have named the Storm Lake Fire Department its 2023 Grand Marshals in honor of the town's 150th anniversary and theme "Three Cheers for 150 Years."

Jared says, "The Storm Lake Fire Department has been a part of the community for nearly 150 years. The Department and its volunteers have been a vital part of our town, and this is a great opportunity to thank them for serving and protecting the area."

Founded in 1881, the Storm Lake Fire Department protects 93 square miles that include the cities of Storm Lake, Truesdale, and Lakeside, as well as the rural townships of Hayes, Washington, and much of Grant.

Fire Chief Glenn Schlessler, who took the helm in fall 2021, says there's nothing better than helping the community and making a difference in the lives of others. "We take about 300 calls a year, and a mother will undoubtedly hand you her child in an effort to keep them safe," he says. "That's a level of trust established that we take great pride in."

Schlessler says the Department is made up of volunteers from all walks of life including tradesmen, law enforcement, and business professionals.

"The group and our families are like one big family who not only help the community on their worst days, but also each other when we need a helping hand." Schlessler, who relocated from the Chicago area, was moved into his new home in Storm Lake within two hours thanks to help from firefighters. He chose the Storm Lake Fire Department for a multitude of reasons, but its primary draw was the longevity of past chiefs in the role, with an average of 20+ years in the role.

The Department is a combination fire department, comprised of two full-time members—the Fire Chief and a full-time firefighter, Josh Fevold—and 27 volunteer firefighters. It provides fire suppression, hazardous materials response, technical rescue response, fire prevention and public education, as well as liquor license and rental inspections. Firefighters train weekly to maintain proficiencies and review the latest tactical and scientific fire and rescue information. The Department operates three engines, one heavy rescue, one tower ladder, one brush rig, and one command vehicle.

"Being named the Grand Marshals is really an honor," says Schlessler. "Fire fighters don't seek attention, but these are some of the best individuals I've worked with in my 24-year career."



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Schlesser plans to grow the Department's public education programming and recruit a new generation of firefighters to continue building its legacy.

"We like to get out and about so the community doesn't just see us in their time of need," he says. "We help with big events such as the Star Spangled Spectacular, RAGBRAI, little league events, and more."

The Department also sends out one annual mailer to help with fundraising efforts. It's Schlesser's hope that the department receives some necessary vehicle upgrades in the near future.

Ty says, "There's a really rich history within the department, and with it being the town's Sesquicentennial, we want to honor their bravery and commitment to Storm Lake and the surrounding area."

All past and present members of the department have been invited to take part in the Big Parade at 10:30 a.m. on July 4. The Department and volunteers will showcase its trucks, retired trucks, and a vintage pump cart in the Parade.

Commodores encourage other local organizations to join the Fire Department in The Big Parade by filling out the entry form at www.starspangledspectacular.net. The Parade will resume its annual route along Lakeshore Drive.

- Photo 1_Schlesser: Storm Lake Fire Department Chief Glenn Schlesser, who took the helm in fall 2021, says there's nothing better than helping the Storm Lake community and making a difference in the lives of others.
- Photo 2_SLFD Group: The Storm Lake Fire Department was named 2023 Grand Marshals in honor of the town's 150th anniversary and theme "Three Cheers for 150 Years."

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.

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