



P.O. Box 584  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

## **Storm Lake Police Officer and Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Gerardo Bravo Selected as Patriotic Ceremony Speaker**

**Storm Lake, IA (June 24, 2026)** — The Star Spangled Spectacular Commodores, Tyler and Deidre Aube, are pleased to announce that Storm Lake Police Officer and Iowa Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Gerardo Bravo will serve as the featured speaker at the 2026 Patriotic Ceremony.

The ceremony will take place on Friday, July 3, at 5:30 p.m. in Sunset Park and is part of the annual Star Spangled Spectacular celebration. Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to enjoy a performance by the Storm Lake Municipal Band, followed by PetRock Band at 7:00 p.m.

This year's Star Spangled Spectacular theme, **"Built on Freedom. Bound by Community,"** resonated strongly with the Commodores as they selected Bravo to deliver the keynote address.

"Officer Bravo embodies the spirit of this year's theme," said Commodores Tyler and Deidre Aube. "As both a local law enforcement officer and military servicemember, he has dedicated his life to serving others. His commitment to Storm Lake and the surrounding community makes him an outstanding choice to share what freedom and community mean to him."

Bravo was born in Los Angeles, California, but has called Storm Lake home for most of his life. A graduate of Storm Lake High School's Class of 2012, he continued his education at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge.

His commitment to service began early when he joined the Iowa Army National Guard in 2010. Choosing the Guard allowed him to serve his country while remaining close to home and pursuing his goal of becoming a law enforcement officer. Today, Bravo holds the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) and has completed two overseas deployments.

Since 2016, Bravo has served as a Patrol Officer with the Storm Lake Police Department, where he works daily to protect and support the community he grew up in. He and his wife, Jessica, an English teacher, are raising their daughter, Emilia, in Storm Lake.

When reflecting on his favorite Fourth of July memories, Bravo recalls attending the Star Spangled Spectacular parade as a child with his parents and enjoying the many food vendors throughout the celebration.



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As he prepares his remarks for this year's Patriotic Ceremony, Bravo shared his thoughts on the theme "Built on Freedom. Bound by Community."

"When I hear the phrase 'Built on Freedom. Bound by Community,' I think about the foundation of our nation. The freedoms we enjoy today were earned and protected by generations of Americans who were willing to serve, sacrifice, and stand up for something greater than themselves."

"As a veteran of two tours overseas, I've seen firsthand that freedom is never just about individual rights. It's also about responsibility. The military taught me that no one succeeds alone. We rely on one another, look out for one another, and accomplish more together than we ever could by ourselves. That's what 'bound by community' means to me."

Community members are encouraged to attend the Patriotic Ceremony and hear Bravo's inspiring message as Storm Lake begins its 2026 Star Spangled Spectacular celebration.

For a complete schedule of events, visit the Star Spangled Spectacular website or follow the organization on social media.

### **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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