



P.O. Box 457  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

## **News Release: Kavan Named Spectacular Parade Grand Marshal for 2021**

**Storm Lake, Iowa** (April 27, 2021) – Storm Lake’s longtime Community Service Officer, Pom Kavan, has been named Grand Marshal for The Big Parade—fitting 2021’s theme: A Salute to Hometown Heroes.

Kavan was hired as Storm Lake’s Community Service Officer in 1994, following a two-year period as a paraprofessional for Storm Lake Community School District. Prior to moving to Storm Lake in 1990, Kavan graduated from Spencer High School and earned her degree from Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville—less than a decade after emigrating from Laos with her family.

“To me, and to so many others, the Star Spangled Spectacular represents freedom, opportunity, and the chance to celebrate the country we call home,” says Kavan. “I love working with people from all different backgrounds.”

Tony Pertzborn, Star Spangled Spectacular 2021 commodore, says the committee was excited to name Kavan its 2021 Grand Marshal. “Pom has been a friendly face in town for years, and after hearing more about her dedication to the community through Chief Chris Cole, we knew she would be a great representative of what being a Hometown Hero means.”

While Kavan may not consider herself a hero, she is honored to represent the Storm Lake community as its first Asian-American Star Spangled Spectacular Grand Marshal. “There are many people in this community who have worked hard to make Storm Lake a safe, prosperous place, and we’ll keep working together through our actions.”

Kavan serves on the SALUD board, as well as volunteers as a member of the Lao Women’s Organization in town. Her Tai Dam heritage allows her to serve as a Laotian translator. In her free time, she enjoys jogging, walking, working out, listening to music, and spending time with her family. Kavan has two grown children, Jesse and Samantha, who are looking forward to supporting their mother on July 4, 2021.

Michael Pertzborn, commodore, encourages local hometown heroes to join The Big Parade by filling out the entry form at [www.starspangledspectacular.net](http://www.starspangledspectacular.net). Healthcare workers, members of the military, first responders, and others are welcome.

The Big Parade will resume its annual route. The event’s annual button contest will represent the “A Salute to Hometown Heroes” as well. Submission directions and a full schedule of events will be posted at [www.starspangledspectacular.net](http://www.starspangledspectacular.net) in the coming weeks.



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- **Photo 1\_Comm.Service:** *Pom Kavan, the Big Parade's Grand Marshal, has served as the town's Community Service Officer for nearly 27 years.*
- **Photo 2\_Laos:** *Pom Kavan, the Big Parade's Grand Marshal, appreciates Laos culture and translates from English to Laotian and vice versa.*
- **Photo 3\_Tai Dam:** *Pom Kavan, the Big Parade's Grand Marshal, is proud of her Tai Dam heritage and is pictured here in traditional dress.*

#### **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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