



Gary Falati will serve as the grand marshal of the 2017 Fourth of July parade. (Robinson Kuntz/Daily Republic)

Longtime businessman Falati to serve as 4th of July parade grand marshal

By [Ian Thompson](#) May 29, 2017

FAIRFIELD — Gary Falati, the guy who started business as a teen running a shoeshine stand on Texas Street and went on to become an educator, businessman and Fairfield mayor, will serve as the grand marshal of this year's Independence Day parade.

“It is a very humbling honor, there are so many others who deserve this,” said Falati, who was born in Vallejo but moved here with his family when he was 2 years old.

The parade, which Falati will lead, starts at 10 a.m. July 4, winding its way through downtown Fairfield along Texas Street, according to the Fairfield Main Street Association.

This year's parade theme is Sweet Land of Liberty. Awards and ribbons will be presented in 28 categories, with sweepstakes trophies for best use of theme and grand sweepstakes.

The awards ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. July 15 in the Fairfield City Council chamber at 1000 Webster St.

A 1958 Armijo High School graduate, Falati started as a teacher, football coach and then principal at Armijo High School before switching to the business world 30 years ago as an agent with State Farm Insurance.

Falati served on the Fairfield City Council from 1974 to 1993, 16 of those years as mayor.

“We made a lot of things happen,” Falati said of his time on the council, which included working with then-City Manager B. Gale Wilson, who Falati still looks up to.

“It has been a real privilege to be involved with the community,” Falati said of his public service.

That service has not gone unnoticed.

“We couldn’t imagine a more deserving person to honor as our Independence Day Parade grand marshal,” said Fairfield Main Street Association executive director Margaret Manzo. “In fact, our selection committee was surprised to learn that Gary hadn’t already participated. It was an easy choice.”

Boy Scout Troop 482 kicks off the celebration with a pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Fairfield Moose Lodge at 623 Taylor St. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Tickets may be purchased at the door July 4 or in advance by sending an email to Troop482fundraiser@gmail.com.

Fairfield’s Channel 26 will broadcast the parade for those who are not able to attend. For more information, visit www.fairfieldmainstreet.com or call 422-0103.

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