

Nov. 4, 2008

Media Contacts: Jerry R. Derrick, 941-861-2899, jderrick@scgov.net
Dan Kunkel, 941-365-6006
John Gulitti, 941-735-0394

Veterans' Day parades and ceremonies set for Nov 11

The Sarasota County's Veterans Benefits Unit, the Sarasota Patriotic Observance Committee and the Venice Area Veterans Council will honor those who serve during a Veterans' Day parade and ceremonies in Sarasota and Venice. The Sarasota parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Main Street and Osprey Avenue. The route of the march will be west along Main Street to Chaplain J.D. Hamel Park on Gulfstream Avenue. Andy Mandell, known as "Mr. Diabetes," will be the featured speaker at the ceremony. Mandell is an insulin-dependent Coast Guard veteran walking the perimeter of the United States to raise awareness for diabetes.

In Venice, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will host a ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11. The event will be held at Heritage Park at the west end of West Venice Avenue. The guest speaker will be Richard Swier, the president of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission. Spectators are encouraged to bring a chair.

"The parade and ceremony is an opportunity for the citizens of Sarasota to honor not only veterans of the Armed Services but police officers, sheriff's deputies, fire fighters and emergency medical personnel," said Dan Kunkel, Patriotic Observance Committee president.

###