

## News release for the Saluting America's Band Directors project



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## America's band directors to be saluted in 2022 Rose Parade®

*280 band directors from across the country will march in an unprecedented marching band in Pasadena*

**Columbus, OH**—A custom-designed animated float will lead a Band Directors Marching Band 280 strong from 50 states and Mexico in an unprecedented entry in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses® Rose Parade on January 1, 2022. The Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, Ohio, is the sponsoring organization behind the project. The foundation was created to recognize and carry on the work of the late Mike Sewell, who dedicated his life to the school and community music programs in Pickerington and the Central Ohio area for more than 38 years.

The parade entry will convey the theme, *"America's Band Directors: We teach music. We teach life."* The extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors are well known to their students, to parents and to school teachers and administrators. No matter where they teach and work—public and private schools, colleges and universities, the military, community bands—dedicated music educators and leaders work long hours to not only teach and direct music, but to teach life itself. Student lives in particular are positively changed by a motivational leader who taught, inspired and mentored them.

Nationally-known, innovative band director Jon Waters will direct the Band Directors Marching Band, the marching configurations and the music for the New Year's Day 5.5-mile Rose Parade route. He will also direct performances of the band in the Pasadena area.

Five Distinguished Band Directors have been selected to represent all of America's band directors and music educators and have been invited to ride on our float. They are Janelle Guirerri, Tom Landes, Tim Lautzenheiser, James Swearingen and Alfred Watkins. Further information is available here.

Selection of applicants for the band were conducted by a committee of the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation. Complete details can be found on the Saluting America's Band Directors website, [BandDirectorSalute.org](http://BandDirectorSalute.org).

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