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Source: Cdr. Lee A. Hallman, US Navy, retired, Veterans Memorial Park Committee Chairman, 345-7766 and Sam Gambrell, 553-5267

### **PARA'S VETERANS PARK LIGHTS UP FOR MEMORIAL DAY**

*Tuscaloosa, Ala.* – The Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority's Veterans Memorial Park will flip the switch on newly installed lighting system at the park on Memorial Day, May 25 at dusk. The park is located on University Blvd. at University Mall in Tuscaloosa. The event is free and open to the public.

“This is a gift to the community on behalf of the veterans,” says Cdr. Lee A. Hallman, US Navy, retired and Veterans Memorial Park Committee chairman. “This is a major improvement that we have been working on for some time. It will show the park in a state-of-the-art lighting system at night,” he said.

“We are inviting veterans, veterans' families and citizens in general to see the lights come on for the first time,” Hallman said. “Ours is the best veterans' memorial park in the state.”

The newly installed lighting system will come on automatically at night and spotlight the mast of the USS Tuscaloosa, the endowment donors, the Honor Roll of Veterans' walls and other important features located in the park such as the jeep and airplane.

The park occupies an important niche in the history of Tuscaloosa. It was developed as a memorial for all veterans of the United States Armed Services and as a tribute to the Northington General Hospital, one of the largest military hospitals in the world at the end of WWII. The park is also the site of such amenities as an M60-A3 tank, the Purple Heart Memorial and the mast of the USS Tuscaloosa. The “Honor Roll of Veterans,” an ongoing project of Veterans Memorial Park, serves as a monument to honor veterans.

The Veterans Memorial Park Committee, working with representatives of the City of Tuscaloosa, PARA and the private sector, has created an educational veterans park. The Park preserves a historical site, honors our veterans and keeps our veterans' memory alive. The Committee is a group of more than twenty Tuscaloosa veterans who represent

all branches of the military service, all wars and conflicts since WWII, and all the fraternal and social veterans' organizations in Tuscaloosa County.

Veterans Memorial Park is maintained through the Veterans Memorial Park Endowment. This permanent endowment ensures that there is an adequate continual maintenance and enhancement funds for the park. The Board of the Directors of the PARA Foundation manages the endowment. Donors may make gifts to the Endowment at any time and gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law.

“Contributions to the park are always welcome and very much appreciated. As an example, the Daughters & Sons of Revolutionary Soldiers presented checks in the amount of \$1,000 each in funds raised by their respective groups in a ceremony on May 12,” said Bill Pool, Veterans Memorial Park Endowment President.

For more information about the Veterans Memorial Park please visit [www.tcpara.org](http://www.tcpara.org) or contact Debra Gibson at 205/562-3220.

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Live, Learn, Play! PARA. The Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority is a county wide non-profit agency funded by the city of Tuscaloosa, the city of Northport and Tuscaloosa County. PARA's mission is to provide safe, clean, and beautiful facilities, parks and open spaces, along with professionally managed leisure activities for all people and to enrich the quality of life, provide economic value, and encourages long-term community stability and growth. Through strong partnerships, we achieve exceptional services and foster an atmosphere of cooperation, trust, and innovation to better serve our community.