

November 1, 2011



Contact:
Becky Booker
PR & Marketing Manager
205/562-3220 ext. 35
bbooker@tccpara.org

Source: Brian Butler, Director of Human Resources, City of Tuscaloosa, 205-248-5230
and Gary Minor, Executive Director, 205-562-3220

VETERANS GROUP AND PARA HONOR VETERANS PAST AND PRESENT

Tuscaloosa, Ala. – The Veterans Park Memorial Committee of Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority will hold a memorial service at the Veterans Memorial Park on Friday, November 11 at 8:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The park is located near the corner of McFarland Blvd. and 15th Street close to University Mall in Tuscaloosa.

The Veterans Day Program recognizes all those who served with the U.S. Armed Forces in times of war and in times of peace. Following the program, representatives will be on duty at the Park throughout the day.

The committee encourages all veterans and/or their survivors to attend and play an active role in supporting the Veterans Memorial Park Endowment. Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniform in remembrance of their service.

The 45-minute program is expected as follows:

- Presentation of Colors by LTC Frank Hannah and Holt High School JROTC
- National Anthem performed by Katie Malone, Miss Tuscaloosa 2012
- Invocation by Dr. Tim Lovett of Calvary Baptist Church
- Welcome, Recognition of Guests and Introduction of Guest Speaker by CDR Brian Butler, U.S. Navy and director of human resources for the City of Tuscaloosa
- Guest Speaker is Alan Tyler, director of the Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration Medical Center
- Salute to Veterans by the Tuscaloosa County American Legion Honor Guard
- Tribute to Veterans by Tuscaloosa Firefighters Local 403 and Emerald Society Pipes & Drums
- Closing Remarks by CDR Lee A. Hallman, U.S. Navy, Retired and chairman of the Veterans Memorial Park Committee
- Benediction by Reverend Keith Pugh of Open Door Baptist Church

Piggly Wiggly will generously provide refreshments.

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.

###

Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority is a countywide 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.