



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Marion County Office of Public Information

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OCALA-MARION COUNTY VETERANS PARK GEARS UP FOR WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 29, 2009) – At the corner of Ft. King Street and Southeast 25th Avenue, more than 100 flags will wave proudly. Courage will fill the air as hundreds of men and women wearing blue, green, brown and white uniforms with creased sleeves and pants, sewn patches and pinned badges crowd the area. Hands will go over hearts in pledge, and Americans will honor those who served the United States.

Veterans Day is Nov. 11, and the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park (2601 S.E. Ft. King St., Ocala) is proud to host the Third Annual Week of Remembrance. The week's events will commemorate the service of Marion County's 46,000 veterans and all others who have served in the U.S. armed forces to preserve American freedoms.

All Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park events are open to the public and free. For more information, contact Marion County Veterans Services at (352) 671-8422. The Third Annual Week of Remembrance events include:

Sunday, Nov. 8:

6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Veterans Light the Stars

Special tributes to WWII veterans, including clips from the movie "Saving Private Ryan," live music by the Kingdom of the Sun Band and fireworks.

Monday, Nov. 9

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

A Salute to Veterans

Live music by U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band from Jacksonville, opening remarks by Commission Chairman Jim Payton and keynote speech by Command Sgt. Maj. Eugene Poole, U.S. Army (Ret.) of Marion County.

Monday, Nov. 9

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Patriots Call to the Park!

Freedom Walk from the McPherson building to Veterans Park and Prisoner of War and Missing in Action program. As part of the Freedom Walk, 20 students will meet at Marion Technical Institute and jog to the Veterans Park. A local motorcycle club will also participate.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Students Salute Our Veterans

Marion County Public Schools salute veterans with performances by Vanguard, Lake Weir and Forest High Schools followed by student poem recitals and a wreath ceremony by the U.S. Marine Corps.

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