

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Event Date: November 4-11, 2023

Place: Veterans Memorial Park



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Foo Foo Festival “Week in the Park”

Pensacola, FL – For more than 30 years, Pensacola’s beautiful Veterans Memorial Park has been a place to honor and remember our nation’s heroes. This coming Veterans Week, the week leading up to Veterans Day, the park will also serve as an entertainment destination as Veterans Week coincides with the Foo Foo Festival’s 10th anniversary celebration.

The week will begin at 2:00-5:00 PM on Saturday, November 4 with a series of events sponsored by the Foo Foo Festival, beginning with a Music-in-the-Park event, featuring performances by Blackbird Anthem and Josh Davis. Guests will want to bring their lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy an afternoon of country rock and American spirit in the park. Admission is \$10.

Then, on Sunday, November 5 from 11:00 AM-5:00 PM, the park, already Pensacola's largest outdoor art gallery, will be the scene of a free one-day "en plein air" art event as it becomes an outdoor venue for painting and drawing demonstrations, featuring art booths and local art galleries and organizations. Local artist Randy New, the creative mind and hands behind many of sculptures in Veterans Memorial Park, will be on hand to exhibit "The Mariner," his latest public work. New will donate his representation of an 8-foot anchor chain link to be part of the interactive art event, in honor of the late Jimmy Buffett and his hit song "Song of a Son of a Sailor."

On November 6, 7, and 10, from 1:00-3:00 PM, docents will lead free tours of the park and its extraordinary memorials and monuments and tell the history behind these stunning works of art and what they represent to our country and our community.

Then, from 3:00-5:00 PM on Thursday, November 9, the park will give guests the opportunity to show how patriotic their pups can be during the Patriotic Paws Contest where dogs will be judged and have a chance to win prizes and recognition for their patriotic costumes. The canine participants' human escorts can add to the show by dressing up in their own patriotic apparel. The entry fee is \$25.00.

On Friday, November 10, the park will transform into a comedy show venue from 5:30-8:30 PM as the Veterans of Comedy, with their motto, "No laugh left behind," perform in the park. The comedians have brought their brand of comedy to audiences across the country and all over the world, bridging military and civilian communities with laughter. Admission is \$15.

Then, on Saturday, November 11, Veterans Day, the Veterans Day parade will end at the park just as the Veterans Memorial Park Foundation's annual Veterans Day celebration begins at 11:00 AM. The event will honor the service of military veterans and will feature music by the Blue Anchor Belles, performances by the McGuire's Pipe Band and the Escambia County Massed High School Band and a keynote speech by the Honorable Judge Gary Bergosh, a Marine Corps veteran.

Finally, the culminating event will be a fundraising dinner and concert **featuring singer-songwriter Mac McAnally, a 2007 inductee into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and ten-time recipient of the Country Music Association Musician of the Year award.** He has written songs performed by musical artists like **Alabama, Kenny Chesney, Sawyer Brown, and Shenandoah.** He also gained popularity as a guitarist and singer in **Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band.**

MarineMax, the world's largest lifestyle retailer of recreational boats and yachts, as well as yacht concierge and superyacht services, is the Platinum sponsor for the Veterans Memorial Park Foundation's Foo Foo Festival events. Of MarineMax' sponsorship, Aaron Kramer, District President for MarineMax East said, "Veterans Memorial Park is a sacred place to honor and remember the brave men and women who have fought for our country. As a business based in a region with a proud history of military service, we are proud to welcome many current and retired service members into our doors, where they can experience the joy of boating with us. Our veterans have risked their lives to protect our freedom and way of life, and they deserve our deepest gratitude. This park is a fitting tribute to their service, and we are humbled to be a part of this event and show our appreciation."

Additional information about Veterans Memorial Park and its Foo Foo Festival events may be found at <https://veteransmemorialparkpensacola.org/>

The Foo Foo Festival Week in the Park is open to the public; we extend an invitation to everyone to participate. We thank our community for its continued support as we carry on the legacies of those who are remembered and honored at Veterans Memorial Park.

MEDIA NOTE: To arrange interviews or for more information, please contact Veterans Memorial Park Board Member Rob Gregg at (850) 529-4350.

Veterans Memorial Park of Pensacola honors the memory of those who have sacrificed their lives in the service and defense of our nation. Veterans Memorial Park exists as a place of repose and veneration in remembrance of the fallen.

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Aaron Kramer-District President MarineMax East