FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Rob Gregg rgregg@pensacolastate.edu (850) 529-4350 Event Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023 Place: Veterans Memorial Park Time: 5:00 p.m.



Veterans Day Ceremonies To Be Hosted at Veterans Memorial Park, Pensacola The Honorable Judge Gary Bergosh, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps Reserve, (Retired) to Serve as Keynote Speaker

Pensacola, FL – The Veterans Memorial Park Foundation of Pensacola invites active duty military personnel, veterans, families, and all community members to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony scheduled for Saturday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, 200 S. 10th Avenue in Pensacola.

The Honorable Judge Gary Bergosh, judge for the First Judicial Circuit Court of Florida and a retired Marine Corps Reserve lieutenant colonel, will be the Keynote Speaker.

Before the ceremony, the Blue Anchor Belles will sing an assortment of 40's and 50's and patriotic style music while vendor booths are open for guests to visit. The Veterans Day parade will terminate at the park in time for the start of the ceremony.

During the ceremony, which will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m., retired Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sergeant Bob Rivera will ring the bell at the Marine Aviation Memorial Tower eleven times in remembrance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, Armistice Day, and the origin of Veterans Day, which we observe today.

A Marine Corps Color Guard will present the colors, the Blue Anchor Belles will perform a patriotic medley of songs, and McGuire's Pipe Band will strike a perfectly reflective chord during the ceremony. The Escambia County Massed High School Band will transition from its place in the parade to perform God Bless America. The Invocation and Benediction will be led by Paul Entrekin.

"Veterans Day is our nation's opportunity to pay tribute to military veterans who have honorably served the United States of America. Those special servants who have worn the cloth of our country are worthy of our thanks, respect, and admiration. Veterans Day is a great opportunity to gather to incorporate Veterans Memorial Park and its mission and purposes into the fabric of our community," said Veterans Memorial Park Foundation of Pensacola President, Rob Doss.

This year's Veterans Day ceremony is part of the Foo Foo Festival and is sponsored by MarineMax. 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 may be found at <u>https://veteransmemorialparkpensacola.org/</u>

The Veterans Day Ceremony is open to the public and we extend an invitation to everyone to participate. We thank our community for your 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) 572-2055.

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. The community gathers at the park on Veterans Day as part of the Veterans Memorial Park Foundation's commitment to facilitate our community's engagement and bonding with our veteran population. One of the Foundation's specific purposes and objectives is to promote the incorporation of the park into the fabric and culture of our community as befitting its rightful place in the hierarchy of our heritage and history.

#