

With Gratitude to Our Veterans



Veterans Day Events

Veterans Day will be marked in Weakley County with several events. On Friday schools throughout the county will have assemblies and ceremonies, and the University of Tennessee at Martin will have a Veterans Day Exposition from noon to 1 p.m. (See related story.) Veterans will also be recognized at the Skyhawk football game on Saturday.

Weakley County's Veterans Day parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday and proceed east on University Street from Lovelace Street to Festival Park in downtown Martin.

Ceremonies will then be held in the park, with County Mayor Jake Bynum as the guest speaker.

The Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony will be performed by Rolling Thunder.

According to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, the table setting provides the following symbols:

The single red rose in a vase is there as a reminder of the lives of each of the missing and their loved one who keep the faith, still waiting for answers.

The red ribbon tied around the base shows the continued determination to account for the missing.

A lemon slice at each bread plate is to remind everyone of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt recalls the tears endured by those missing and by their families who seek answers.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from the country, which was founded as one nation under God.

An inverted glass symbolizes their inability to share in the day's toast.

The chairs at each place stand empty to express the absence of prisoners of war and those missing in action.

The National League of Families of prisoners of war and those missing in action says there are currently 1,592 missing service people in the country, with 26 of them from Tennessee.

After the ceremonies, all veterans and their families will be treated to a free lunch at the American Legion Post 55 in Martin.



UTM will host an exposition Friday and free admission to Saturday's football game.

UTM to honor veterans and active military

The University of Tennessee at Martin will honor active military personnel and veterans during a Veterans Day Exposition on Friday in the Boling University Center, as well as during the final UT Martin home football game of the season Saturday at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The Skyhawk football game against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles will kick off at 2 p.m. and include recognition and free admission for all active military service members and veterans with identification.

The Veterans Day Exposition will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The exposition is open to the public and sponsored by the university's Skyhawk Veterans' Association.

In addition to honoring military veterans, Nov. 10 marks the 243rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a birthday cake-cutting ceremony honoring the U.S. Marines will follow the exposition program in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby.

The exposition will open Friday with the presentation of colors by the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion and the playing of the national anthem. Johnny Dyer, veteran services coordinator and a military veteran, will introduce guests and the playing of U.S. military songs. Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, will follow with a presentation about World War I. Carls is a member of the Tennessee

Great War Commission and was instrumental in securing a grant to restore the World War I Memorial Fountain in Jackson. The restored fountain will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 17, on the northeast lawn of the Madison County Courthouse.

Carls will be followed by remarks from Tennessee State Rep. Bill Sanderson (R-Kenton) and Chris Guntelinger, UT Martin assistant director for student life and a Marine Corps veteran. Sanderson will then play taps to close the event. The Marine Corps birthday cake-cutting ceremony will follow.

The university will also honor active military personnel and veterans Saturday, Nov. 10, at Graham Stadium as part of gameday activities for the final home football game. All active military

service members and veterans will be admitted free to the game when they present identification at the stadium ticket booth. In addition, the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will present the colors, reigning Miss Tennessee Christine Williamson will sing the national anthem, and Rolling Thunder will present the game ball prior to kickoff. Before these activities, a pre-game tailgate concert featuring Nashville recording artist Eric Chesser will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the stadium tailgating area.

Information about the Veterans Day Exposition is available by calling 731-881-1689, and ticket information for Saturday's UT Martin-Tennessee Tech football game is available by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at 731-881-7207.

Ledley Bennett Symmes, III
US Army Chief Warrant Officer (Helicopter Pilot)
Served: 1970-71
Veteran of: Vietnam War
Hometown: Martin, TN

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

Sgt. T. Joe Walker
1943 - 1945
World War II
Hometown: Martin, TN

CPO (Ret.) Hugh Gingras
United States Navy
1961 - 1980
Martin, TN

Jess Pate
United States Army
WWI
Martin, TN

Jonathan N. Clark
United States Army
Feb. 2009 - March 2017
Afghanistan
Sharon, TN

Phillip D. Clark
United States Army
Post Vietnam Era
December 1976 - December 1978
Martin, TN

Larry B. Clark
United States Air Force
Vietnam
October 1967 - April 1990
Martin, TN

Bernard L. Clark
Veteran of
WWII
November 1943 - November 1945
Gleason, TN

Bill Lynch
U.S. Army
Vietnam, Tet #3
1967 - 1970
"I hope my showing up for the march in full dress uniform will inspire others from that era."
Martin, TN

Ike Mathis
United States Army
1942 - 1945
Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland
Martin, TN

Larry E. Harrison
United States Army
1965 - 1967
Vietnam War
Sidonia, TN

Sam Stockton
1961 - 1965
United States Navy
Vietnam
Martin, TN

MSgt. Stephen Stockton, Ret.
1990 - 2010
United States Air Force
Desert Storm
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Martin, TN

Sgt. Artie Linhart
United States Army
Veteran of World War II
Time Served: 1941-1945
Waverly, KS