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September 25, 2018

Join Memorial Park Association in celebrating the Centennial of Armistice Day!

Memorial Park, born out of Jacksonville citizens' deep gratitude to those who served in The Great War (World War I 1914-1918), for almost 100 years has been a shared public treasure for the entire Northeast Florida community. In November 1918 George Hardee of the Jacksonville Rotary Club proposed a memorial to honor Floridians who died in service during WWI. Paid for by the citizens of greater Jacksonville, the commemorative public park opened on Christmas Day 1924. Now after 100 years, we honor all of those Floridians, not 1,200 as originally thought, but more than 1,580 individuals from every county in the state.

Memorial Park Association (MPA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the park, has organized multiple events leading up to Armistice Day. The Association has planned and funded a Speaker Series, Walking Tours, a Virtual Exhibit, a Field Guide, and an Armistice Day to enjoy and remember. A calendar of events is attached for your convenience.

Events kicked off with a spectacular patriotic and well-attended Navy Band performance on September 2nd. Our Speaker Series started on September 15th with Mark Krancer, the photographer who took the famous photo of *Spiritualized Life* during Hurricane Irma that was seen around the world. The Speaker Series continues every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. through November 10th. Speakers include, for instance, Diane LaFond, who sculpted the eagles flanking *Spiritualized Life*; St. Johns Riverkeeper's Jimmy Orth; K9s for Warriors' Rory Diamond; Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens' Holly Keris, and Dr. R.B. Rosenberg, the history professor who has researched and confirmed the names of more than 1,580 WWI casualties from the state of Florida.

On November 11th, Armistice Day, the celebration and remembrance will start at sunrise with a lone bagpiper and continue throughout the day. At 11 a.m. church bells will ring all over the city as part of the world-wide Bells of Peace. Food trucks and entertainment will continue up to the signature evening program, our Sounds of Victory Concert performed by the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra at 5 p.m.

All events are *free* and open to the public. Invite your neighbors and friends to join you at the park for a picnic. Let's fill Memorial Park and celebrate together as a community!

Sincerely,

Kelly Varn

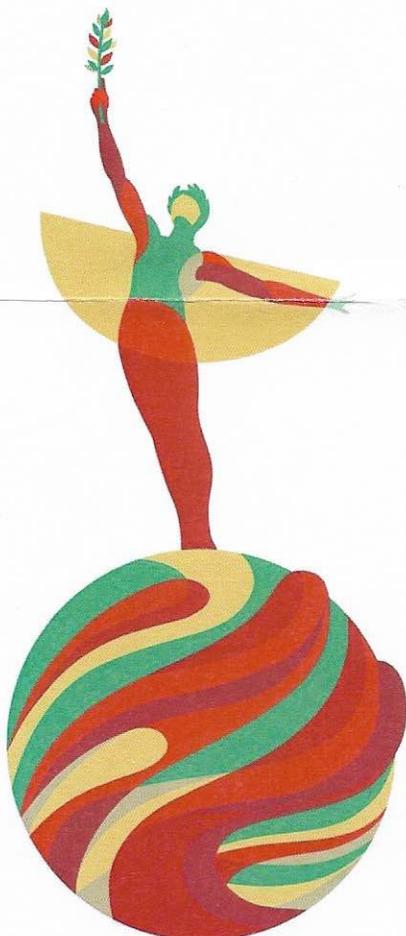
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