



401 South Park Avenue • Winter Park, Florida 32789

Communications

Media Inquiries: **Craig O'Neil**
407-599-3506 • 321-303-2653 cell

PRESS RELEASE

City to honor veterans at annual celebration

WINTER PARK, FL (October 16, 2024) The City of Winter Park will host its 14th Annual Veterans Day Celebration, **Friday, November 8, at 10 a.m.** The event will be held at the **Winter Park Community Center Ruby Ball Amphitheater** adjacent to **Shady Park at Hannibal Square** located at **721 W. New England Ave.** All veterans that have served in any military campaign or branch in honor of our nation's freedom are invited to attend for our community to pay tribute to their dedicated service to our country.

At **9:30 a.m.**, the public is invited to visit with organizations that offer resources specifically for veteran needs as the VFW Post 2093 Community Band entertains guests. At **10 a.m.**, the official program begins with musical performances, anecdotal speakers including **Pam Russell**, Army Veteran; **Benjamin Mack-Jackson**, Founder & Executive Director, [WWII Veterans History Project](#); and a musical recognition of veterans according to the various military branches served. The program will also include three of [Quilts of Valor](#) presentations, including special recognition of World War II Veteran **Melvin "Mel" Jenner**.

Prior to her career in human resources, **Pam Russell** served for 10 years in the United States Army, both stateside and abroad. Her final tour of duty was in Iraq during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield with the 401st Military Police Unit. With over 25 years of management experience, Russell currently serves as the Human Resources Director for the City of Winter Park.



For nearly half his life, **Benjamin Mack-Jackson** has been dedicated to documenting the stories of World War II, and now the war in Ukraine, to preserve history for future generations. As a photojournalist, author, visual storyteller and founder of the nonprofit organization [WWII Veterans History Project](#), Mack-Jackson dedicates his time to preserving the memories of the Greatest Generation and giving the past a future, one story at a time. He is a recent graduate of Rollins College with a degree in international relations, and to date, has interviewed over 250 WWII veterans.

After completing his training in Biloxi, Mississippi, at 19 years old, **Mel Jenner** went on to serve in the United States Air Force for 26 years from 1942 to 1968. He served active duty in World War II, where he flew 46 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe as an aerial gunner, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars.



The Veterans Day Celebration continues with a **Veterans Golf Play Day** offered at both Winter Park golf courses: [Winter Park Golf Course \(WP9\)](#) at 761 Old England Ave., and [Winter Park Pines Golf Club \(WP18\)](#) at 950 S. Ranger Blvd. Tee times **begin at 12:30 p.m.**, and veterans play for FREE. Reserve your tee time for a patriotic round of golf by Friday, November 1, at [407-599-3419 \(WP9\)](#) or [407-671-3172 \(WP18\)](#).

For more information about the **14th Annual Veterans Day Celebration**, please call [407-599-3506](#).

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