

Veterans Day

The purpose of Veterans Day is to celebrate and honor those who have served in the United States armed forces in times of peace and in times of war. It began as a celebration of the peace after World War I. In 1921, Congress passed legislation honoring Veterans every November 11. In 1926, it was changed to Armistice Day and then in 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veterans Day.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the 4th Monday in October. It soon became apparent; however, that November 11th was a date of historic significance to Americans. Therefore, in 1978, congress returned the observance to its traditional date of November 11th.

Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial

The Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial is dedicated to the few who serve to ensure the freedom of many. A grateful community remembers those who serve in the armed forces of the United States during time of wars and peace whose courage and personal sacrifice defend and preserve our freedom.

If you would like to make a donation or purchase a memorial paver, flyers are at the memorial or please contact us at 386-295-7007 or mail your paver form or contribution to:

Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association

4650 Links Village Drive Unit B 302

Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127-3039

PONCE INLET VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Davies Lighthouse Park, Ponce Inlet

November 11, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Call to Arms

Rear Admiral William D. Masters, Jr.

We are honored again to have Admiral Bill Masters as our guest speaker today. Admiral Masters was our first guest speaker at the dedication of the memorial on November 11, 2011. We welcome him back to commemorate our **FIFTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY**.

Admiral Masters joined the Navy in 1964 and served as a Cryptologic Technician during Vietnam. As an enlisted Sailor, he had assignments in the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, and at sea. Following graduation from Western Illinois University, he received a direct commission in Naval Intelligence in 1972 and in 1973 he became a cryptologic officer.

Admiral Masters commanded several Naval Security Group Reserve units, and served as Regional Cryptologic Area Commander South, and Chief of Staff, Naval Security Group Reserve Command. He completed active-duty assignments as special Assistant to the Commander, Naval Security Group, before taking charge of Naval Security Group Reserve. He then served as the Vice Commander, Naval Security Group Command and as Commander, Naval Security Group - a command of over fifty facilities and 17,000 people. When this unit merged with the Naval Network Warfare Command he served as its Reserve Vice Commander until his retirement. As a civilian, he had various leadership positions in the DOD and the FAA. He received the "Hammer Award" for excellence in government, personally presented by the Vice President of the United States, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Among his military awards are the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards) Vietnam Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Rear Admiral Masters holds Masters and Bachelor's Degrees from Western Illinois University which recently granted him the Distinguished Alumni Award. He is married to the former Grace Wang of Taipei. They have two sons and two grandsons.

Master of Ceremonies – Jim Hinson, Major, USA (Ret)

Posting of Colors – Embry Riddle – ROTC

National Anthem – Embry Riddle – Acafellas

Opening Prayer – Shane Gaster, Major, USAF (Ret)

Pledge of Allegiance – Bill Wester, Lt. Col., USMC (Ret)

Introductions – Jim Hinson, Major, USA (Ret)

Remarks – Gary Smith, Mayor of Ponce Inlet

Guest Speaker – Admiral Bill Masters, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

POW/Missing Man Ceremony – Embry Riddle - Air Force ROTC

Acafellas – Service songs medley - Embry Riddle

Dedication & Wreath Laying – Jim Hinson, Major, USA (Ret)

Firing Squad – Marine Corps League Detachment 658

TAPS – Bobby Williams

Fly Over – Spruce Creek Gaggle

Closing Prayer – Shane Gaster, Major, USAF (Ret)

God Bless America – Embry Riddle - Acafellas

Retire Colors – Embry Riddle - ROTC