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PARA'S VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK SITE OF TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Tuscaloosa, Ala. ~ Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority's Veterans Memorial Park Association, in conjunction with the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center and The University of Alabama Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, will host a joint Memorial Day Program on May 29 at 9 a.m. in Tuscaloosa <u>Veterans Memorial Park</u> located at 1701 McFarland Blvd., East. The event is free and open to the public.

"Memorial Day is a day of remembrance. It is the day on which we pause to remember and honor those servicemembers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom," said Brian C. Davis, CEO of PARA and veteran. "It is an opportunity to express our appreciation for those servicemembers who work each day to safeguard our country."

VMPA Chairman Col. Duane Lamb says, "We are honored to have keynote speaker Hays Webb who is the District Attorney of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Alabama, which encompasses Tuscaloosa County, and a veteran."

Webb enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 and was a peacetime infantryman from 1985 to 1989. He served as a rifleman and mortar squad leader with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion 6th Marine Regiment and Golf Company, 2nd Battalion 8th Marine Regiment, and was honorably discharged as a Corporal. He is a member of the Mike Spann Detachment of the Marine Corps League. He is a charter member and serves on the board of directors of the Alabama Marines Foundation.

In addition to speakers, highlights of the program will include: Hillcrest High School AJROTC to present colors, The Tuscaloosa Firefighters Local 403 Emerald Society Pipes & Drums to perform "Amazing Grace," and more.

Park monuments include the <u>"Honor Roll of Veterans"</u> featuring engraved names of almost 4,000 area men and women who have served in the military. Individual listing on the honor roll is open to area service men and women who have served honorably in any branch of military service.

Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park is a PARA property and is administered with the assistance of the Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park Association.

State and local elected officials, Veterans and Veterans Committee members are expected to participate. In case of inclement weather, the program will be moved to Magnolia Shelter in Snow Hinton Park.