



The Alabama Purple Heart Memorial at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park is designated as the official memorial for Alabama recipients of the Purple Heart Medal. The Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park is honored to be chosen by the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) as the location for their monument.

### History of Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park

At the end of WWII, the U.S. Army Northington General Hospital in Tuscaloosa was one of the largest military hospitals in the world. The Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park is on McFarland Boulevard at the site of the hospital chapel. The one-acre site where the chapel stood has been retained in public ownership under the oversight of the Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority.

Over the past several years, the Veterans Memorial Park Association, working with representatives of the City of Tuscaloosa, PARA, and the private sector created an educational veterans park at the old chapel site. The majority of the costs to date have been donated by the private sector including more than \$500,000 of in-kind construction activity.

The Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park has over 3,900 names engraved on the "Honor Roll of Veterans" monuments. The engraved names represent a lasting tribute to the person who is special to you or your family. The inscription includes the veteran's name, branch of service and conflict or war.

To view a list of all names currently engraved in the park or to submit a veteran's name for engraving, please visit our website at [www.tcpa.org/parks/veterans-memorial-park](http://www.tcpa.org/parks/veterans-memorial-park) or call 205-331-5600 for more information.



## MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Presented by  
*The Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park Association*

**TUSCALOOSA VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**  
*1701 McFarland Blvd. E. at University Mall*

**May 25, 2026**

**9:00 a.m.**



**Brian Butler, Captain, U.S. Navy, Retired**  
*Chairman, Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park Association*

***"All gave some. Some gave all." - Unknown***



<b>Welcome</b>	Brian Butler, CAPT, U.S. Navy, Retired
<b>Invocation</b>	Ron Howard, CAPT, U.S. Navy, Retired Former Director of Pastoral Care, DCH
<b>Presentation of Colors</b>	Paul Bryant High School Marine Corps JROTC
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Yvonne Wells, Veterans Memorial Park Association, Educator (Retired) and proud widow and mother of a veteran
<b>National Anthem</b>	Maggie Butler, daughter of CAPT Brian Butler
<b>Remarks from the TVAMC</b>	Dr. Maisha Moore, DNP, Interim Director
<b>Guest Speaker</b>	Dr. Andrew M. Del Gaudio Department Commander, Alabama Military Order of the Purple Heart
<b>Rendering of Military Honors</b>	Gun Volley Salute and Taps Tuscaloosa American Legion Honor Guard
<b>Ringling of the Bell</b>	Tracey Benson, U.S. Navy, Retired, Veterans Memorial Park Association and Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc.
<b>Benediction</b>	Alex Cowan, Associate Pastor Skyland Baptist Church
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Brian Butler, CAPT, U.S. Navy, Retired

A very special “thank you” to Alan Whinery for providing today’s sound and music as well as to all those who helped to make today’s event possible.

And thank you to the PARA Board of Directors and employees who maintain the Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park in honor of our veterans.



**Dr. Andrew M. Del Gaudio**  
**Department Commander**  
**Alabama Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Dr. Del Gaudio is a retired Marine Corps Infantry Officer with a distinguished 26-year career. During his extensive service, he served combat deployments in Haiti, Iraq and Afghanistan. His personal awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V,” the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon. He has held positions of tactical level leadership to teaching positions at The Basic School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the Baltic Defense College. He has also served in strategic-level staff positions in the Pentagon as a strategic planner, military advisor and foreign area expert on the Middle East and Eurasia.

Dr. Del Gaudio is a 1997 graduate of Villanova University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in History. He is a 2010 graduate of Marine Corps University’s prestigious School of Advanced Warfighting with a master’s degree in Operational Studies. Dr. Del Gaudio received his Doctorate in History from the University of Liverpool in 2012.

Dr. Del Gaudio has served on several boards supporting veterans and has received numerous leadership awards for service in the veteran community. He enjoys assisting his fellow veterans through the Military Order of the Purple Heart with his wife and three children.