Monument Spotlight

Our newest monument in the park is a plaque honoring a ship that shares our city's name. The U.S.S. Tuscaloosa (LST-1187) served with the U.S. Pacific Fleet during the Vietnam War, earning a Meritorious Unit Commendation and four (4) battle stars for her service.

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.tcpara.org/parks/veterans-memorial-park*** or call 205-331-5600 for more information.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Presented by

The Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park Association
in association with
The Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration Medical Center &
The University of Alabama Office of Veteran & Military Affairs

TUSCALOOSA VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

1701 McFarland Blvd. E. at University Mall

November 11, 2026

10:00 a.m.



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

"Freedom is never free." - Unknown

Welcome	Brian Butler, CAPT, U.S. Navy, Retired Chairman, Tuscaloosa Veterans Park Assoc.
Invocation	Chaplain Jacqueline Long, EdD, MDIV Acting Chief Chaplain Services, Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center
Presentation of Colors	The University of Alabama Army ROTC
Pledge of Allegiance	Yvonne Wells, Member, Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Park Assoc., Retired Educator, and proud widow and mother of a veteran
National Anthem	The Stephens Family
Remarks from TVAMC	Maisha Moore, DNP, Interim Executive Medical Center Director
Remarks from UA Office of Veteran & Military Affairs	Brittany Wilemon, Director
Introduction of Guest Speaker	Brian Butler, CAPT, U.S. Navy, Retired
Guest Speaker	Charles H. Gailes, Jr., MG, U.S. Army, Retired
Salute to Our Veterans	Armed Forces Medley
Benediction	Chaplain Jacqueline Long, EdD, MDIV
Closing Remarks	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.



Major General (MG) Charles H. Gailes, Jr.
U. S. Army (Ret.)

Major General Charles H. Gailes Jr., U.S. Army (Retired), is the founder of CG Solutions LLC where he serves as a Subject Matter Expert in training and readiness for the DoD CBRN Response Enterprise.

A Tuscaloosa, Alabama native, he joined the National Guard in 1984 as a Military Police Soldier and was commissioned that year through Officer Candidate School. His commands included a Military Police Company and Battalion, a Chemical Brigade, and a Theater Sustainment Command. He led Task Force Guardian after Hurricane Katrina and Task Force Tuscaloosa after the 2011 tornadoes.

He also spent 30 years in law enforcement, including nine as Chief of Police for the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He holds a B.S. from the University of Alabama, a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and is an FBI National Academy graduate.

His honors include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Combat Action Badge, and induction into the Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. He and his wife Susan have four grown children and live in Huntsville, Alabama.