



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

Work Set to Begin on New Veterans Plaza in Springfield

Through a partnership between Willamalane Park and Recreation District and the City of Springfield, construction is set to begin on a new Veterans Memorial Plaza on the corner of Mohawk Blvd and I Street in Springfield. Work is set to start the week of September 26, with completion before Veterans Day on November 11. The construction will include the temporary removal of the cannon on the corner of Mohawk Blvd and I Street while the new plaza is constructed. The cannon is included in the new design and will be reinstalled in the same location.

The new plaza will be located within Willamalane Park on Mohawk Street and I Street. In addition to providing space for future military memorials, the plaza will offer an area for reflection, assembly and events. The plaza will be accessible to those with disabilities and take advantage of the beautifully maintained park to provide a place to honor those that have served our country. Staff from the City of Springfield and Willamalane worked with a group of local veterans who offered extensive input on the design.

A new Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and a sculpture honoring women who have served are planned for install. Space for future memorials is also provided within the design.

Background:

Springfield has a long tradition of supporting our veterans through city related events such as hosting and sponsoring the annual Lane County Veterans Day Parade or hosting the traveling Vietnam Wall Memorial. The community of Springfield also has stepped up through the efforts of private citizens and businesses that work to honor those that have served. And, we still want to do more, which is why the community will see three US Veteran related projects over the next couple of years.

Veteran's Plaza: Working through a partnership between the City of Springfield and Willamalane Park and Recreation District, plans have been completed to develop a Veterans Memorial Plaza. The plaza will be located within Willamalane Park on Mohawk Street and G. Street. In addition to providing space for future military memorials, the plaza will offer an area for reflection, assembly and events. The plaza will be ADA accessible and take advantage of the beautifully maintained park to provide a place to honor those that have served our country.

Vietnam Memorial: The current site includes a small plaque dedicated to Springfield area veterans who lost their lives in Vietnam. Working with local Vietnam Veterans groups, the City and Willamalane are helping to include a new Vietnam Memorial at the site. It will be the first memorial installed in the new Veteran's Plaza – with a planned November unveiling. Local veterans are taking the lead on the look of the new memorial design.

Women in the Military: Another exciting piece of this development is the inclusion of a sculpture to honor the service of women in the military. Throughout the United States there are very few memorials focused on the sacrifices of women. The goal of this project is to produce a high-quality sculpture that celebrates the service of women in the US Military. We plan to recognize the five military branches and dedicate the work to the women who served or gave their lives in service of our country.