

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 15, 2019

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY PLANS SPECIAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE  
OPENING OF NEW VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN**

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO** – St. Charles County Government, the St. Charles County Veterans Committee and the St. Charles City Veterans Commission will host a special Veterans Day Ceremony at 1 p.m., Monday, Nov. 11, at Veterans Tribute Park, 1031 Kisker Road in Weldon Spring. The event will be held at the park's Veterans Memorial Garden, which will be open to the public for the first time on that day.

Overlooking the park's two lakes, the garden will feature a Veterans Memorial Plaza with the names of St. Charles County soldiers who died in service to our nation engraved on stone panels. A Tribute Walk leading up to the memorial will showcase interpretive panels covering conflicts from the time St. Charles County was organized in 1812 to present day, along with plantings that bloom or have vibrant color at the end of each war.

Speakers for the event will be County Executive Steve Ehlmann and Lt. Col. Samuel W. Kline, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chemical Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood. District 3 County Councilman Mike Elam, who served in the United States Navy, will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and District 4 County Councilman Dave Hammond, a U.S. Army veteran, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayors Dan Borgmeyer, St. Charles; Len Pagano, St. Peters; and Nick Guccione, Wentzville, all veterans, will read the names of St. Charles County soldiers who died while serving our country.



*Final touches are being made to the County's new Veterans Memorial Garden at Veterans Tribute Park in Weldon Spring. The garden will be open to the public for the first time on*

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Other guests participating in the ceremony include the St. Charles Municipal Band; the St. Charles County Police Department Honor Guard; accomplished singer/songwriter Rev. Dr. Randy Mayfield; and Monsignor Michael Butler, pastor of Saint Clement of Rome Catholic Church in Des Peres and a retired U.S. Air Force and Missouri National Guard chaplain. The Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 6 will lay a wreath at the memorial, St. Charles American Legion Post 312 will perform a 21-gun salute, and local businessman/musician Mike Boschert will end the program with Taps.

Weather permitting, the ceremony will be followed by activities for children and their families under the adjacent Sammelman Pavilion in the park. Patriotic crafts and activities will be presented by the St. Charles County Parks Department, St. Charles City-County Library District, and St. Charles County Veterans Museum. The County Parks Foundation will sell commemorative bricks for the garden's Memorial Plaza, and the St. Charles County Government Veterans Best Practices Working Group is hosting a "Support Our Troops Care Package Drive" for soldiers overseas.

The public is welcome to attend; refreshments will be served. For more information about the event or care package item requests, visit [stccparks.org](http://stccparks.org).

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### ***About St. Charles County:***

*Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. It is home to 15 scenic county parks encompassing more than 3,643 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.*

*With a population of 395,504, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.*

*St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit [sccmo.org](http://sccmo.org)*