



From the Mayor's Desk

November 2016

Veterans Day – Why it's Important to Remember

On Friday we will celebrate one of our country's most important holidays – Veterans Day. We will honor the men and women, living and dead, who have served our country both in peacetime and wartime.

When I was a youth I associated the holiday as a day off from school and gave little thought to its real meaning. But my attitude changed after I served four years in the Navy during the Vietnam conflict. I learned that Hollywood heroes are very rare and not the ones who get the job done. The real service is done by regular citizens working together doing their best, in spite of the sacrifice. That's who I think of on Veterans Day.

Nearly 100 years ago the nation first set aside a day to honor our veterans. It was on Nov. 11, 1919 that "Armistice Day" was recognized as a way to observe the cease-fire between the Allies and Germany in World War I. In 1938 it became an official national holiday, and in 1954 was renamed "Veterans Day."

Recognizing veterans as a nation – and the local level -- is a thoughtful way to remember the men and women who served to ensure our freedom. All we have to do is look around us to find a veteran – it could be our neighbor, co-worker or family member who served. They are poignant reminders of how important remembering – and recognizing their service really is.

As you know, plans for the Town Center include a veterans' monument which will be located on the city's Town Green. The monument will be 3,000 square-feet in size and will feature a central pillar with a sculpture of an eagle atop the globe to represent the presence of the U.S. Armed Forces around the world, five sculptures to represent each of the Armed Forces and a sculpture to honor the Veterans of the National Guard, Federal Reserves and Merchant Marines.

It's fitting that the city should have a monument dedicated to saluting its Peachtree Corners veterans. I want to thank all veterans who have reached out and contacted the city with their service information. And I would like to ask our veterans, our residents and our business community to get involved in the plans for the monument.

As you can imagine, there is a lot of detail that goes into planning a veterans' monument from the ground up. Please consider volunteering, helping with fundraising, and donating to the monument fund. It will be a proud day when the city finally unveils the Peachtree Corners Veterans Monument – and you can take great pride too by being part of the effort.

You will find more information on the Peachtree Corners Veterans Monument Association website,
www.ptcvets.net.

Happy Veterans Day – and be sure to thank a veteran on this special day.