



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK *of The Villages, Inc.*

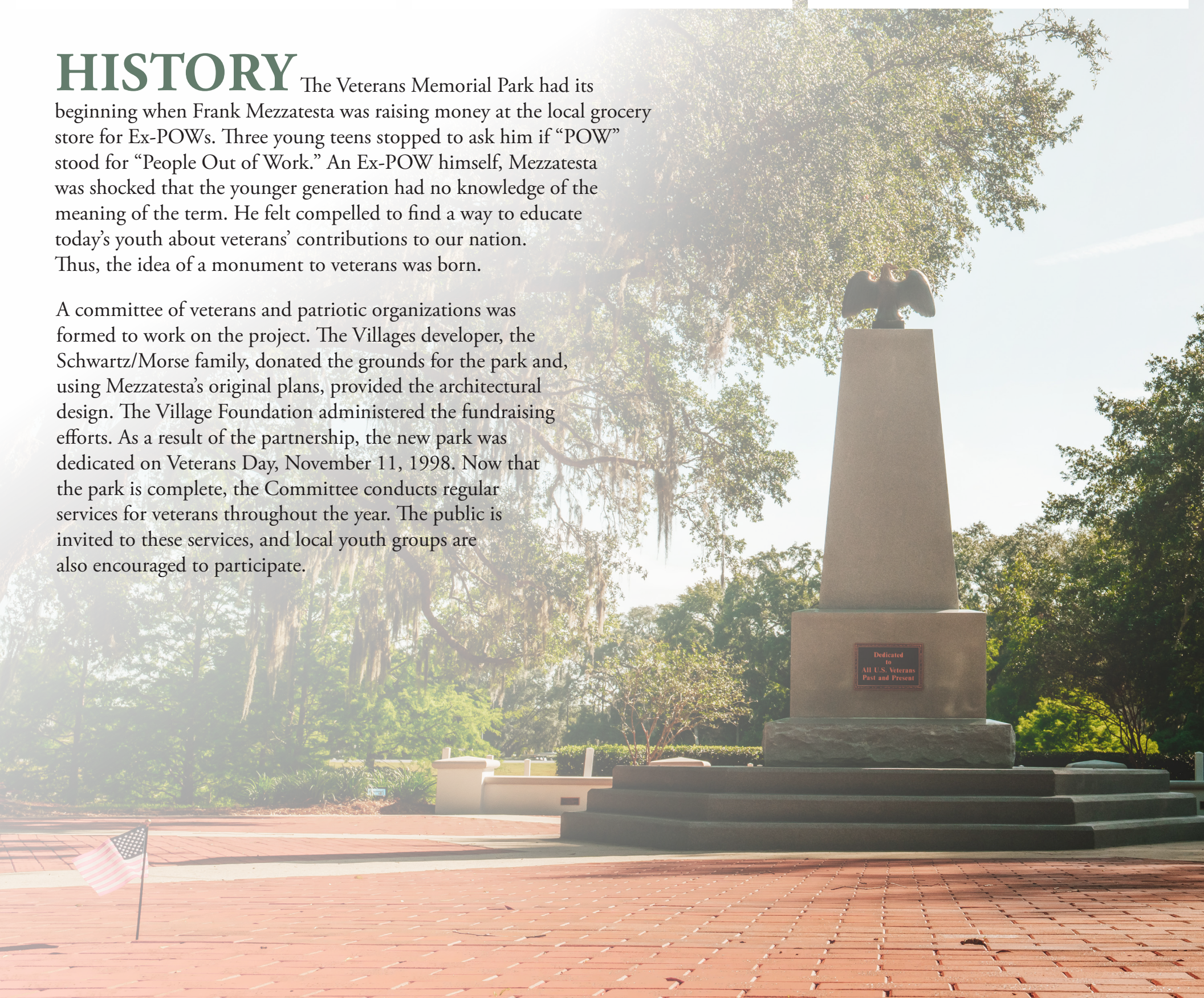
Dedicated on November 11, 1998 to All U.S. Veterans Past and Present.
Located just off Main Street at Paige Place and Lake Miramar.



HISTORY

The Veterans Memorial Park had its beginning when Frank Mezzatesta was raising money at the local grocery store for Ex-POWs. Three young teens stopped to ask him if “POW” stood for “People Out of Work.” An Ex-POW himself, Mezzatesta was shocked that the younger generation had no knowledge of the meaning of the term. He felt compelled to find a way to educate today’s youth about veterans’ contributions to our nation. Thus, the idea of a monument to veterans was born.

A committee of veterans and patriotic organizations was formed to work on the project. The Villages developer, the Schwartz/Morse family, donated the grounds for the park and, using Mezzatesta’s original plans, provided the architectural design. The Village Foundation administered the fundraising efforts. As a result of the partnership, the new park was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 1998. Now that the park is complete, the Committee conducts regular services for veterans throughout the year. The public is invited to these services, and local youth groups are also encouraged to participate.





THE VMP COMMITTEE

PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS

- Sue Roper**, President US Navy
Tom Miller, Vice President/Chaplain US Army
Arlene Pfeuffer, Secretary NSDAR
Michael Summers, Treasurer US Army
Peggy Campbell, Commander Honor Guard US Navy
Marg Fada, Board Member USAF
Richard Simpson, IPP USAF
Advisor: **Joan Bernat**

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Frank Mezzatesta**, Ex-POW, Park Founder, USAAF
Harold E. Sievers (Emeritus), USAF
John Brehio, USA (Deceased)
Emory Clippert, Ex-POW, USA
Del Presher, USN (Deceased)
Tom Ritter, USA (Deceased)
Roger Sullivan (Emeritus), USAF
Janet Davie (Emeritus), NSDAR
Christine Heaton (Emeritus), NSDAR



COMMITTEE PROJECTS

CONDUCT VETERANS SERVICES at the Veterans Memorial Park.

BRICK SALES to commemorate U.S. veterans past and present. Bricks may be purchased all year. Bricks are dedicated each November 11 during Veterans Day service. For information, call the VCDD office at 352-753-4508.

SUPPORT of VA hospital activities.

AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS to high school graduates.



ADOPT-A-KID, ADOPT-A-VET

This program is a major activity of the VMP Committee and began in the fall of 1999 at The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake. It was created to fill a serious gap in children’s education: the absence of meaningful instruction about what a veteran is, or their sacrifices to preserve freedom and democracy; about our nation’s heritage, and respect for its flag. The program serves elementary schools—mainly grades 4 and 5—in the tricounty area, though its success has spread across Florida and the nation. The program not only educates students about the significance of veterans to our country, but also affords an exciting and rewarding mission for our veterans to fulfill. The hours required are few but the rewards are many.

For information, call 352-751-5136.

SCHEDULED SERVICES

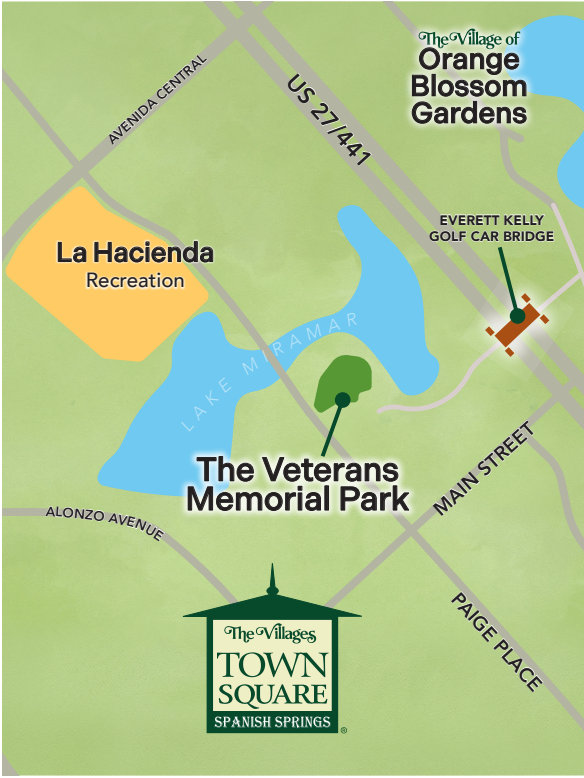
MAR. 29	Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
MAY 15	Peace Officers Day
MAY 18	Armed Forces Day
LAST MONDAY IN MAY	Memorial Day
JUNE 14	Flag Day
JULY 4	Independence Day
JULY 27	Korean War Armistice
SEP. 11	Remembrance Day
SEP. 20	POW/MIA Recognition Day
NOV. 11	Veterans Day
DEC. 7	Pearl Harbor Day

Sunday services are held at 2PM.
All other services are held at 10AM.

WE FLY THE FLAG AT HALF-STAFF

Last Monday in May Memorial Day
Sunup till noon

May 15 Peace Officers Day
July 27 Korean War Armistice Day
Sunup till sundown



The Veterans Memorial Park is located off Lake Miramar at Paige Place, between La Hacienda Regional Recreation Complex and Spanish Springs Town Square.

Out of respect for those honored here, the VMP is a pet-free park.

For more information, contact:
Sue Roper, President at usnodu@aol.com

For Use of Park, contact:
RecreationDepartment@districtgov.org

- TheVillagesMemorialPark.org
- The-Veterans-Memorial-Park-of-The-Villages

UNIT FLAGS

82nd AIRBORNE, DIV. ASSOC. of PARATROOPERS AND GLIDER MEN

AMERICAN EX-POW's

AMERICAN LEGION POST #347

BAND OF BROTHERS

DAV CHAPTER #150 AUXILIARY

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS #150

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

KOREAN WAR VETERANS, CH #169

LAKE & SUMTER COUNTIES CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOC. of AMERICA

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Col. Philip C. Delong Detachment #1267

MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART, CH #795

NS, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, PUC PUGGY CHAPTER

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

SUBMARINE SEA DRAGON BASE USSVI

SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII

TRI-COUNTY WOMEN VETERANS

VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA #1036

VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT

WORLDWIDE AIRBORNE

The VMP welcomes participation of unit flags from all Tri-County veterans and patriotic organizations in its ceremonies.

ALL VETERANS who have served our country honorable are welcome.