



# CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

COUNCIL ITEM 13B  
DATE 3/12/12

"A CITY FOR ALL AGES"

## Memorandum

TO: JERRY A. BENTROTT, CITY MANAGER

FROM: GREGORY J. ORAVEC, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

DATE: MARCH 2, 2012

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY THE SOUTHEASTERN MILITARY ACADEMY FOR SPONSORSHIP, FEE WAIVERS AND SUPPLIES FOR "OPERATION TAKE TIME TO HONOR" 2012

Please find the enclosed request from Colonel Alan L. Weierman, PhD, of the Southeastern Military Academy, for City sponsorship, fee waivers and supplies for Operation Take Time to Honor, 2012. The seven day event is planned for May 22 – May 28, 2012, at Tradition. As with last year's approved event, Colonel Weierman is requesting more than the City sponsorship that allows special event signage within the right-of-way. The request includes:

- 300 folding chairs;
- 20 folding tables;
- Advertisement for the event on the City's website; and
- Waiving the permit fees for special event signs and banners.

Please be advised that there were no problems associated with the City's approval of last year's request.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Encl.

c: Mayor & City Council [as part of the City Council agenda packet]  
Colonel Alan L. Weierman, PhD

**RECEIVED**

MAR 02 2012

City Manager's Office

## Patty Lipp

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**From:** Alweierman@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:27 PM  
**To:** Bonnie Cruz; Mayor Faiella  
**Cc:** Yvette Cruz; Patty Lipp; MaryAnn Verillo; Greg Oravec  
**Subject:** Re: Operation Take Time to Honor 2012

Bonnie. Sorry it has taken me so long to respond. Please allow this email to serve as my official request for participation by the City of Port St Lucie.

Dear Mayor Faiella,

On behalf of the Cadets and volunteers of Southeastern Military Academy please allow me to invite you and the City of Port St Lucie to be a part of the Treasure Coast's largest tribute and event to honor our local Veterans, called "Operation Take Time to Honor"

Starting May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Southeastern Military Academy (a 501 C3 not for profit charity) and hundreds of community volunteers will erect over 3,200 wooden memorial markers honoring the lives of those lost from South Florida during American conflicts.

Last year the Cadets and volunteers built and erected markers comprised of Crosses and Hebrew Stars honoring all those killed in action from WWI to present day who called South East Florida home (from Volusia in the north to Collier, Hendry and Monroe in the south.) This year due to the overwhelming support and interest in this project the Cadets and volunteers will expand the representation, adding over 900 markers and seven counties to the existing ones.

It takes a great deal of effort to construct each memorial by hand, and it takes even more to raise the funds to do so. That is why we need your support to help complete this tribute. This is not a fundraising campaign; we are merely attempting to raise the funds and materials to cover the costs associated with building and setting up this tribute for the community. Each wooden memorial marker will cost approximately \$8.00.

The Crosses and Stars of David will be meticulously placed in perfectly straight rows in Tradition in Port St Lucie Florida and on Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> after a Memorial Service at 5:00 PM, Southeastern Military Academy cadets and JROTC cadets from other area schools will place two sentries on the memorial around the clock through Monday May 28 at 3:00 PM.





Please consider our request to have the City of Port St Lucie partner with Southeastern Military Academy with an in kind contribution of the following:

20- 8 ft tables

300 folding chairs

Advertisement on the City's website

Waiving of all fees and permits for signs and the event.

Your support will be felt community wide by Veterans and their families along the entire Treasure Coast and beyond. As a Partner of this event the Logo of the city will be predominately placed on all signs, banners, advertisements and in the program and on site.

We hope that you will consider being a part of this important event. Should you have any questions about the Memorial project please do not hesitate to contact me.

As you can see by the above pictures from last year's event, this is a great way for the community to recognize the past heroes that gave us the freedom we enjoy today.

A new addition this year will be the Blue Star Awards Ceremony that will be held on Saturday May 26 at 3:00 PM. The Blue Star Award is given to the family of a service member who was killed while serving his or her country but not in the line of combat. Congressman Rooney's office will be there to give a Flag to each family and Rep. Harrell's office will give a small token of gratitude from the State of Florida.

Thank you for your support of this program and partnering with us to make events like this possible.

Sincerely,

Alan L. Weierman, Ph. D., Colonel  
Commanding Officer

P.S. I wanted to share a story with you from the 2009 event.

"It was mid afternoon on May 24<sup>th</sup> and I was working in the welcome center at the event. The Memorial Grounds were packed and there were people everywhere. I finished my watch and went for a walk through the grounds. I noticed two young women sitting on the ground toward the back of the grounds. I noticed one looked shaken and seemed to be talking to one of the memorial markers.

I walked over and asked her if everything was alright. She said yes, Is it ok if I just sit here? I told her yes and she then told me that her husband was killed in Iraq and this was his marker. She introduced me to her husband and thanked me for making this place where she could come and spend time with her husband's memory. I told her it was my honor. As I walked away I couldn't help but tearing up."

This is why this event is so important. Won't you help by donating today?

Thank you kindly for reading my email, if you need anything further I may be reached at 772-621-9104 if you have questions or to schedule a presentation before the City Council.

In a message dated 2/13/2012 4:28:32 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, BonnieC@cityofpsl.com writes:

The Mayor reviewed your request which is similar to last year except that the Council did not agree to contribute the light towers. She is suggesting for you to revise your request to include the quantity of tables and chairs, waiving the permitting fees for the signs and remove the verbiage of "Town" on your flyer and state only "Tradition", and also to agree for pick up and return the items.

Also please let me know which event you are requesting for the Mayor to attend; Friday May 25 (what time) or Saturday, May 26 @3pm?

Thank you for your consideration.

Bonnie R. Cruz

Administrative Assistant, City Council

121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard

Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

772-871-5159

Fax: 772-871-7382

E-Mail: BonnieC@cityofpsl.com

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**From:** Mayor Faiella  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Bonnie Cruz  
**Subject:** Fwd: Operation Take Time to Honor 2012

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Alweierman@aol.com" <Alweierman@aol.com>  
**Date:** February 8, 2012 2:34:30 PM EST  
**To:** Mayor Faiella <Mayor@cityofpsl.com>  
**Cc:** "alweierman@aol.com" <alweierman@aol.com>

**Subject: Operation Take Time to Honor 2012**

Dear Mayor Faiella,

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The Crosses and Stars of David will be meticulously placed in perfectly straight rows in the Town of Tradition in Port St Lucie Florida and on Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> after a Memorial Service, Southeastern Military Academy cadets and JROTC cadets from other area schools will place two sentries on the memorial around the clock through Monday May 28 at 3:00 PM.



Please consider our request to have the City of Port St Lucie partner with Southeastern Military Academy with an in kind contribution of tables, chairs, 4-light towers, advertisement on the City's website and waiving of all fees and permits for signs and the event.. Your support will be felt community wide by Veterans and their families along the entire Treasure Coast and beyond. As a Partner of this event the Logo of the city will be predominately placed on all signs, banners, advertisements and in the program and on site.

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# OPERATION: TAKE TIME TO HONOR

2012

Southeastern Military Academy and Friends are once again endeavoring to bring the "Memorial" back into Memorial Day by erecting white Crosses and Stars of David, for a touching tribute to the thousands of Florida soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guardsmen who have given their lives in defense of our freedom.

Take Time to Honor is our way to remember the brave military personnel who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms. This three day event is a solemn occasion to commemorate their bravery. We want YOU to join us and become a part of this touching community tribute.

In 2007 The Memorial Project honored 224 WWII Veterans from the Treasure Coast. This year we are expanding to increase the numbers by including over 3,200 markers representing the brave fallen heroes of the counties of Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier, Lee, Glades, Charlotte, Osceola, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands and Hendry Florida, who gave their lives in the service of their country from WWI up to and including present day actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## *Did you know...*

- It will take over 2000 man-hours to erect the memorial markers in perfect rows.
- Starting Friday 25 May at 4:00 PM, two cadets or volunteers will be on post at the entryway, daily, rain or shine until the Memorial grounds close on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May at 3:00 PM
- Individual sponsorships start as low as \$100.00, clubs or service groups can sponsor a row of markers for as little as \$250.00 and corporate sponsorships begin at \$500.00 and go up to \$18,000.00 to sponsor the entire expense of Operation "Take Time to Honor".
- NEW! This year a marker may be "sponsored" for \$250.00 that will memorialize a family member or friend. (As long as they served regardless of when and where they died.)
- In Kind donations of building supplies, tools and food will also make a positive difference.



For more details about sponsorship and it's benefits please contact Molly at 772-621-9104 or email at [mollyvch@aol.com](mailto:mollyvch@aol.com).

May 25-28, 2012 at Tradition, Port St Lucie Florida  
Open 24 Hrs. a Day

## OPERATION "TAKE TIME TO HONOR"

Our mission is to Honor the brave men and women of our Military who sacrifice their lives, fortunes, and homes for the freedoms that we take for granted. Our hope is to remind Americans that each and every name that is represented here is someones' son, daughter, father or mother and that we as Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to those who laid such an honorable sacrifice on the alter of Freedom.

*"A project like this is a very positive way for our teenage cadets to pay homage to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice." Before building, painting and erecting the markers the cadets study the reason behind the project. "This is also a tremendous way to help the community remember what these heroes have done."*  
Colonel Alan Weierman, Southeastern Military Academy.



**"Southeastern Military Academy"** is a not for profit 501 C (3) organization and is based in Port St Lucie Florida. Southeastern is an intensive, Residential and Day, Academic and Behavior modification program that utilizes military style components for the establishment of a "Doctrine of Discipline" in the lives of boys ages 11-17. The objective of the school is to provide a tough, highly structured, high impact program that will remold and turn around the lives of rebellious and troubled teenagers.

**"Cadets for Vets"** is a community service outreach program of Southeastern Military Academy. Cadets for Vets work closely with local veteran associations, service organizations and councils to help area veterans who may have a challenge getting something done; from clearing debris after a storm to mowing the lawn or handing out aid, the cadets at Cadets for Vets are dedicated to giving back to the men and women who have served our nation.