FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County Veterans Day ceremony includes Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, held at Airport

November 4, 2016 – Flagler County’s Veterans Day ceremony at 10 a.m. on Friday, November 11 this year will be held at the Flagler Executive Airport as the kick-off to Freedom Fest 2016 – a weekend long event to honor veterans that includes the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall.

“This year’s ceremony has grown and will be quite special,” said Sal Rutigliano, Flagler County Veterans Services Officer.

Flagler County moved the event this year because it was able to bring Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to the Flagler Executive Airport for all three days of the festival.

“The Vietnam Traveling Wall represents the perfect backdrop for this important event,” Rutigliano said. “It stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices that were made during the Vietnam War.”

Brigadier General Richard Butterfield, retired United States Army, will be the keynote speaker at the ceremony. Flagler County’s Veteran of the Year will also be announced.

The winner of the Flagler Schools Veterans Day Essay Contest will also be honored. There will be a performance Flagler Palm Coast High School’s “Formality Singers” and its marching band.

U.S. Representative Ron DeSantis will present the Silver Star to 1st Lieutenant Ray Parker, U.S. Army, as part of the opening ceremony. Parker’s award had been misplaced for 46 years until the congressman became engaged in the resubmission process.

DeSantis will also present Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins – created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the war – to all veterans who served honorably during the Vietnam War era, from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975.

The Veterans Day kick-off ceremony is sponsored by the Flagler County Commission and the Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council. Veterans groups to participate include: American Legion Post 115, Amvets Post 113, DAV Chapter 86, Italian American War Veterans Post 7, Marine Corps League 876, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart 808, Flagler County

Musical entertainment begins at noon on Friday. There will be military aircraft, a vendor village and fireworks at 9 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free to the festival, which is co-produced by the Flagler Executive Airport and Flagler Broadcasting.

The Flagler Executive Airport is located at 201 Airport Road, off of State Road 100 and across the street from Flagler Palm Coast High School.

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