

Warsaw-Faison

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41

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Warsaw Veterans Day Celebration preserves a 90-year tradition

**By Michael Staton
Staff Writer**

A time would come when the 1920s would be billed "The Roaring Twenties." But in small towns across America there would be nothing "roaring" about the '20s. In big cities dresses rose to the knee and speak-easies sold illegal booze, but in small American towns like Warsaw, N.C., time-honored traditions still ruled. In Warsaw, honoring the veterans and servicemen who put their lives on the line for their fellow countrymen was about the most important thing an American could do. So in early November



**Gen. Rodney O.
Anderson**

1921, three years after the armistice was signed ending The Great War, the townspeople held an Armistice Day celebration.

They made that celebration a new tradition, today called the Veterans Day



**Cdr. Peter
Sorensen**

Celebration. Rain or shine, warm day or a sweater or coat day, they've held the celebration for 90 straight years.

This year the celebration, billed as the Oldest Consecutive Veterans Day



**Col. Anne M.
Winkler**

in America," will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6.

"The members of the Veteran's Committee and the Town of Warsaw want to invite you to participate in our time-honored tradition," said Linda Kitchin



**Col. Daniel
Lecce**



**William Sasser
U.S. Coast Guard**

at Warsaw Chamber of commerce.

This year Warsaw has been designated as a regional site for the observance of Veterans Day, along with Charlotte, Fayetteville, and

Continued on page 2

Veterans Day celebration

Continued from page 1

etteville and Morehead City. This is the first time the Veterans Day National Committee has designated cities in North Carolina, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nearly 800,000 veterans live in North Carolina, along with about 120,000 active members of the military and 25,000 guardsmen and reservists.

"This year we'll be putting special emphasis on all branches of the military," said Kitchin. "We plan to have a marshal from each branch of service."

There will be marshals from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and the National Guard. The marshals are: William Sasser of the United States Coast Guard; Col. Daniel Lecce, commanding officer, Marine Corps base, Camp Lejeune; Cdr. Peter Sorensen, commanding officer, Navy Operational Support Center, Wilmington; Col. Anne M. Winkler, commander of the Fourth Mission Support Group, Seymour Johnson AFB; Maj. Gen. Rodney O. Anderson, deputy commanding general, XVIII Air Corps at Fort Bragg. A photo and biographical information for a National Guard marshal had not been supplied to the newspaper as of press deadline.

The celebration always begins with a pancake breakfast at the Masonic Lodge at 8 a.m.

Once you've finished breakfast, check out the sidewalk sale that should be underway at 9 a.m.

Be sure to be on hand for the 10 a.m. Memorial Service at the downtown Veterans Park, organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9810. The 3,000 townspeople of Warsaw refuse to forget those who gave their last full measure

of devotion. Speaker for the service will be William "Bill" Sloan, past commander of the North Carolina Department of the VFW.

At 11 a.m., be prepared for some noise. Look up and spot the military flyover and the Special Forces parachute jump. And there's the parade. The parade route starts on North Front Street, turns right at the corner of Hill Street, crosses the railroad tracks, and makes a left down Railroad Street in front of the reviewing stand. Next, the parade makes a left onto College Street (Highway 24), and at the stoplight makes a left onto Pine Street (Highway 117). The parade ends

at the corner of Dudley and Pine streets.

With breakfast long in the past, head for the barbecue lunch at noon at the fire station. Lunch will be served by the Warsaw Fire Department and American Legion Post 227.

Don't forget to check out the displays inside Warsaw's Duplin County Veterans Memorial Museum, which is holding an open house from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Artifacts from every war are displayed in various rooms.

At 1:30 p.m., the 208th Army Band, headquartered in Concord, will perform in Veterans Park. There will also be static displays.

Celebrate Freedom
OLDEST CONSECUTIVE VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION IN AMERICA
 Started in 1921

90th Veterans Day Celebration
 November 6, 2010
 Warsaw, NC

- A Veterans Day Regional Site 2010 -

8:00 am.....Pancake Breakfast: Masonic Lodge

9:00 am.....Sidewalk Sale (Vendors)

10:00 am.....Memorial Services, Veteran's Park

11:00 am.....Fly Over/Special Forces Jump/PARADE BEGINS
 Marshals from Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and National Guard

12:00 noon.....BBQ Lunch: Fire Station
 BBQ Lunch: American Legion Post 227

1:00-4:00 pm.....LP Best House/Duplin Co. Veterans Museum

1:30 pm.....Reviewing Stand in Veterans Park
 208th Army Band

"If You Love Your Freedom, Thank a Veteran"