



# CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS

**For Immediate Release:**

Monday, October 30, 2023

**For Media Inquiries:**

Public Communications Officer  
407-327-5955

mreeser@winterspringsfl.org

**Winter Springs annual Veteran's Day Tribute to be held November 11, 2023**



**WINTER SPRINGS, Fla.--** The City of Winter Springs invites residents to join us in honoring our nation's heroes of the armed forces at our annual Winter Springs Veteran's Day Tribute.

The tribute will be held Saturday November 11, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 7p.m. at the Veteran's and Military Service Memorial located the corner of Blumberg Boulevard and Tuskawilla Road in the Winter Springs Town Center.

As part of the event Winter Springs will also present our 2023 Hometown Hero award to Captain Laurel Ross for her dedication to helping other veterans throughout Winter Springs and Seminole County Community.

**What :** Veteran's Day Tribute 2023

**Where** Winter Springs Veteran's and Military Service Memorial  
corner of Blumberg Boulevard and Tuskawilla Road

**When** Saturday November 11, 2023

6:00pm to 7:00pm

####

City of Winter Springs  
1126 East State Road 434  
Winter Springs, Florida 32708  
www.winterspringsfl.org



Meet Winter Springs 2023 Hometown Hero Captain Laurel Ross.

Captain Ross joined the United States Army in 1990, serving as a helicopter and fixed-wing pilot until 1998 with distinction.

Captain Ross earned several awards throughout her military service, beginning with being named Distinguished Honor Graduate from her flight school class in 1991, followed by the Senior Army Aviator Badge, the Airborne Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

After leaving the Army in 1998, Laurel earned her master's degree in education and spent time teaching at several different schools in Seminole County.

A fixture in the Winter Springs community, Laurel volunteers with the American Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, Women in Aviation Central Florida Chapter, and numerous Legion youth programs.

Captain Ross worked to obtain the Florida Fallen Memorial, which features over 400 photos, biographies, and crosses displayed for a week leading up to Memorial Day.

In his nomination letter to the Mayor and City Commissioners, Winter Springs resident Mike Segura said Laurel's community service and passion make her remarkable.

"Her leadership, dedication, and commitment are commendable, but even more, it is her passion. She has impacted veterans, improved the community, and helped make today's youth tomorrow's leaders," Segura said.

Congratulations, Captain Ross, on receiving this honor. Winter Springs would like to express our profound appreciation for your service and thank you for your dedication to serving the Veterans of Winter Springs and Seminole County.

About Hometown Hero: Every year, as part of its Veterans Day Tribute, the City of Winter Springs honors a Winter Springs resident for their military service and commitment to the support of Winter Springs veterans and the community.



# CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 301

CITY COMMISSION AGENDA | OCTOBER 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

## TITLE

Hometown Hero Nomination Approval

## SUMMARY

Annually the City of Winter Springs has a Veterans day event at the Veterans Memorial. During this ceremony a resident is highlighted for their military service and dedication and support of Winter Springs. This year Laurel Ross has been nominated for Winter Springs Hometown Hero. Laurel Ross is a Winter Springs resident residing at 1778 Seneca Blvd, Winter Springs, FL 32708. She is an Army Veteran who graduated as Distinguished Honor Graduate from her flight school class in 1991. She served from 1990 to 1998 and was awarded the Senior Army Aviator Badge, the Airborne Badge and the Air Assault Badge. Laurel is dedicated to serving her community and veterans. Her unselfish commitment to providing care, comfort and guidance to others is evident. She always gives 100 percent effort and is often found volunteering her time and service for the American Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, Women in Aviation Central Florida Chapter, the local Citizens in Action group, serving as High School Booster Club Treasurer and assisting the Seminole County Supervisor of Elections. For all these efforts and more, Laurel was selected as Seminole County Veteran of the Month in July 2022.

Laurel's commitment to impacting the lives of veterans and youth during the past 3 years is evident upon observing her in action and witnessing her passion. Her responsibilities and assignments in the American Legion are currently as chair of the Oratorical Program working with our High School Students. She has held many positions with responsibility for recruiting, retention and in multiple Legion programs as Vice Commander. Laurel served 2 years as Post Commander completing that assignment in July 2023,

Laurel Ross's dedication, self-sacrifice and hard work as American Legion Post 243 Commander culminated in the 'Best Post Award' for 2021 presented by the American Legion Department of Florida at the State Convention. She consistently *leads from the front* as the Post works through the monthly cycle of staff and general meetings, weekly coffee and chat events and evening fireside socials. As Post Commander, she has supervised the planning of numerous special events and ceremonies, especially the very successful Post 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event and other social events and ceremonies which foster camaraderie with the members.

Laurel is involved in the many different programs the Legion Post provides which make a significant difference in the lives of veterans and youth in our community.

From Civics, Boys State, Scholarships, Scouting, Oratorical, Shooting Sports and Americanism, Laurel has guided the program chairs and has significantly raised effectiveness of each program. The students from the Oratory and Boys State programs are entering the work force better prepared because of her leadership, care and mentorship.

Laurel was instrumental in obtaining the Florida Fallen Memorial which consists of over 400 photos, biographies and crosses which are set up for a week prior to Memorial Day. The memorial was previously on loan and required extensive repair and refurbishment to be utilized. She led the refurb and enhancement of the memorial. The Memorial was visited by many and is an important part of the Post's Memorial Day Ceremony.

Laurel is actively engaged in other Veterans Organizations, she is an active member of the Marine Corps League Honor Guard providing military honors to deceased veterans. She assists at fundraising events and volunteers her time visiting veterans in local retirement homes.

Laurel Ross, consistently contributes hundreds of hours annually in community service. Above and beyond the commendations she has earned, she has earned the respect of the membership and community leaders. Her leadership, dedication and commitment is commendable but even more, it is her passion. She has impacted veterans, improved the community and helped make today's youth tomorrow's leaders. Her actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of self-sacrifice and she is worthy of being named **Winter Springs Hometown Hero**

## **FUNDING SOURCE**

N/A

## **RECOMMENDATION**


Staff recommends the City Commission approve Laurel Ross as this years "Winter Springs Hometown Hero.




# Veterans Event Detours



Winter Springs

 Road Closure

 Detour

