

Mayor Van W. Johnson, Sr.
Three Servicemen Statue - Groundbreaking Ceremony
March 22, 2008 – Veterans Memorial Plaza

To our elected officials, honored guest, visitors, citizens, and veterans, welcome and thank you for coming.

We gather here today to start the process where we honor the men and women who survived and did not survive the many battles fought so that we can enjoy the blessing of living in the land of the free. We are truly grateful.

However, how is it possible to honor such men and women, for all the good they have done?

What we do here today and tomorrow is small in comparison to what these soldiers have done for their country and for the cause of freedom.

These soldiers, some are here this morning, through their words and deeds have taught us the love of country, courage, the value of sacrifice, hard work, and virtue... the necessary ingredients for freedom.

Perhaps we can honor them, by remembering the sacrifices they made to keep this country free. Perhaps we can make sure that their stories are told to our youth or perhaps we could try to imitate their resolve in life.

This ceremony and the placement of the Three-Servicemen Statue, is only a small down payment toward the outstanding debt that we owe them. However, the City of Apalachicola is proud to be a partner in bringing this significant structure to our own backyard, to honor the men and women who served in our nations military.

We are forever in your debt and we thank you. May God bless and keep you.