

April 18, 2019

Dear Community Partners,

The City of Bremen cordially invites you to the Grand Opening of the Bremen Veterans Park. The park will officially open on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m. Some seating will be available, but if you would like to bring your own lawn chairs to accommodate those who have trouble standing, please feel free to do so. The ceremony will not be lengthy, but will include the reading of the names of all veterans who have been honored or memorialized in the park.

Armed Forces Day in the USA was created in 1949. President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish the holiday in order for citizens to unite and honor our military personnel for their service to the United States of America. The day combines the single day celebrations for each branch of the military, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. We recognize our National Guard as well though it is deemed a part of the U.S. Army. The day stems from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. We are so pleased to be honoring all veterans and service personnel on that day.

In partnership with the Bremen Veterans Park Ribbon Cutting the Warren Sewell Library will be opening the Children's Patriotic Art Exhibit with a reception at the library immediately following the completion of the Veterans Park opening ceremonies. Most of you know that the Warren Sewell Library and the Bremen Veterans Park sit right across the street from one another. Know as well that in the event of inclement weather the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held inside the library. It will be a great day to hang out in downtown Bremen as we honor all of our Armed Services personnel and our great country!

Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the 2019 National Day of Prayer. In 1775 the Continental Congress allocated a time for prayer in forming the new nation. Over the years there have been other calls for a national day of prayer, including President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and signed into law by President Harry Truman. In 1988 the law was unanimously amended by both the House and the Senate designating the first Thursday of May each year as a day of national prayer. President Ronald Reagan signed it into law on Thursday, May 5, 1988. The National Day of Prayer Committee was formed in the United States in 1972 and went on to create the National Day of Prayer Task Force with the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. This special day calls on all people of different faiths in the United States to pray for our nation and its leaders and families. It is estimated that more than 50,000 prayer observances occurred on the National Day of Prayer, 2018. The National Observance in Washington, D.C. was broadcast in 200 countries of the world and 1.5 billion homes.

There are still many people who are anxious to join together in praying for our great country and our communities. Although I have not received any word from a local sponsoring group this year, on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 12:00 noon, I will be at Bremen Depot Park to pray for our community and our nation. I would be thrilled to have all of you join me. What if people of all faiths covered the park to stand together in intercession for our community, our families, our nation, our youth, our law officers, our first responders, our leaders, our schools, our businesses, our churches and synagogues...? Could I look for at least 200 of you? If it is raining I will be in the sanctuary of Bremen First Baptist Church – right across the street. Please join me there. You may also park there to access the park. There will be a police presence to aid in crossing the street. The national theme this year is "Love One Another." True love is not always a warm fuzzy feeling. True love is looking for another's highest good regardless of how we might feel about them. True love is a choice of behavior and attitude. Love is patient and kind, humble, not easily angered, enduring, never vengeful or boastful and never rejoices in evil. Without it, one is nothing. I can't wait to see all of you who will join me around this theme. And if you have some specific prayer requests, email me at [ssewell@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssewell@bellsouth.net), and I will see that they are included in prayers offered.

May God's blessings rest upon you.

Sharon Sewell