



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

A VETERANS DAY MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DEAN J. TRANTALIS

Every day is a good day to thank a veteran of our United States Armed Forces. Our country's greatness is built on their courage and sacrifice. But each year, Nov. 11 is set aside so that we can come together as a country and community to express our deep gratitude for their dedication and service.

We can never thank our veterans enough for answering that call of duty, their families for the sacrifices they all bear on our behalf or the protection they provide us in ensuring our freedom and peace.

On this Veterans Day, I invite you to join us on the Riverwalk at the Sandy Nininger Statue at 11 a.m. for a ceremony honoring our veterans, past and present.

This is a particularly important Veterans Day in the history of Fort Lauderdale. Eighty years ago this past May, Sandy Nininger graduated from West Point. Commissioned as a lieutenant, he was sent to the Philippines to serve in the 57th Infantry Regiment.

Some eight months after his graduation, Lt. Nininger was dead. As the Japanese invaded the Philippines following their attack on Pearl Harbor, Lt. Nininger helped prepare American defenses in Bataan. He was killed in action on Jan. 12, 1942, leading an assault on Japanese positions. The bravery of this 23-year-old soldier led to posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor – the first issued during World War II.

The citation accompanying the Medal of Honor describes his strength in the face of danger. It states: "Though exposed to heavy enemy fire, he continued to attack with rifle and hand grenades and succeeded in destroying several enemy groups in foxholes and enemy snipers."

I can think of no better place to take a moment to reflect and honor all the heroes who followed in his footsteps than at the steps of our city's statue to Lt. Nininger on the banks of the New River – where he once swam and fished as a child.

Lt. Nininger and all other heroes who wear the uniform of the United States Armed Forces are an inspiration to us all. Let us remember it is their exemplary patriotism that has provided our liberty and this incredible country we call home.

May God bless our veterans and may God bless the United States of America.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor



William C. Morris American Legion Post 36 and City of Fort Lauderdale
VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 | 11:00 AM



SANDY NININGER STATUE
 FORT LAUDERDALE RIVERWALK (SEE MAP)

Complimentary Parking | Broward Center Garage | Enter off SW 5 Avenue

Join the City of Fort Lauderdale and the William C. Morris American Legion Post 36 at a Veterans Day Ceremony to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Participating Veterans groups will include the William C. Morris American Legion Post 36, Sons of American Legion Squad 36, Ladies Auxiliary Unit 36, American Legion Post 220, 82nd Airborne Veterans, and American Veterans for Equal Rights.

Immediately following the ceremony, join us for a lunch at the American Legion Post 36, located at 1620 Marina Boulevard.

For more information, visit www.fortlauderdale.gov.



If you would like this publication in an alternate format or if you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please call (954) 828-4755 or email strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov.