



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2015 Veterans Day Activities & Honorees Announced

The Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission will honor Adm. (Ret.) Thad W. Allen, former 23rd Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, as Patriot of the Year, and Jim Jeffries, a U.S. Army veteran and reservist, as Veteran of the Year.

Both will be recognized during the commission's Veterans Day luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Fort Whiting Armory at noon.

Among his career achievements, Allen previously served as the Coast Guard chief of staff and commanding officer in Washington D.C., and chairman of the Department of Homeland Security's Joint Requirements Council. He was designated as the principal federal official for Hurricane Katrina response and recovery operations in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, and for Hurricane Rita in Louisiana. Allen led the Coast Guard's Atlantic area forces in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and served as the national incident commander, directing response efforts to the BP oil spill.

The Tucson, Ariz., native, graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He holds a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University, and a master's degree from Sloan School of Management of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Jeffries served in the U.S. Army and Army reserves. He had a 28-year career with Kraft Foods-Nabisco, retiring as worldwide vice president of ingredient sales. Since moving to Fairhope in 2004, he has served as a member, officer and commander of American Legion Post 199, commander of District 33 and now is senior vice commander of the American Legion Department of Alabama. Prior to entering the Army, Jeffries graduated from the University of Missouri.

The day's events begin with the annual parade along Government Street in downtown Mobile at 10 a.m., featuring several Veterans' organizations, active duty units, Reserve & National Guard

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units, ROTC and JROTC units, scouts and local marching bands. The luncheon follows, and is sponsored by BAE Systems. Later at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park there is a Freedom Celebration at 3 p.m. and a Mobile Pops Concert at 7 p.m.

The parade and celebrations at Battleship Memorial Park are free to the public. There are limited luncheon tickets available. The cost is \$18 per person. Contact Carolyn Hunt at 251-431-8621 or chunt@mobilechamber.com. Payment is due with reservation.

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