

NEWS



Sinise dedicates 'smart home' to wounded veteran

Actor Gary Sinise attended the dedication in Maryland of a specially outfitted home that his foundation built for an Army captain who was severely wounded in Afghanistan. The Gary Sinise Foundation says in a statement that the ceremony Friday in Chevy Chase marked the completion of one of more than 50 "smart homes" that the organization has built or is building for wounded veterans and their families.

VETERANS DAY

Heroes saluted in program at Patriots Park

By Earle Kimel

earle.kimel@heraldtribune.com

VENICE — Crisp blue skies and mild 73-degree weather framed Veterans Day and a special program hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8118 at Patriots Park.

More than 150 people, veterans and proud family members, showed up to say thanks and honor the sacrifices made by servicemen and women.

"We're here today to honor our heroes, to remember their achievements, their courage and their dedication and to say thank you for their sacrifices," said retired U.S. Army Master Sgt. Gordon Severan, the keynote speaker.

"A person can't help but feel awed by the enormity of what we encounter," he continued in reference to his audience. "We stand in

the midst of patriots, and the families and friends of those who have nobly served."

Veterans Day started on Nov. 11, 1918 as Armistice Day, to mark the end of World War I.

Venice area groups rotate hosting the Patriots Park program. Participating in Friday's program were: Disabled American Veterans Chapter 101, American Legion NO-VEL Post 159, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8118, Marine Corps League Detachment 643, and the Venice chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

Participating auxiliaries were DAV Auxiliary Chapter 101, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 159, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 159, American Legion Riders Post 159 and VFW Auxiliary Post 8118.

American Legion



Judy Lemm receives the Sarasota County Veterans Commission Auxiliary Member of the Year medal from Barbara Vaughn, immediate former president of the commission.



Post 159 provided the sound system. The Sun Coast Wind Ensemble

performed under the direction of Cindy Partridge.



The Venice Police Department leads the parade of colors Friday morning at Veterans Day services held in Patriots Park.

STAFF PHOTOS / EARLE KIMEL