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March 28, 2018

Media Advisory

EVENT: Fundraising campaign kick-off for restoration of veterans' memorial

WHEN: 11 a.m. Thursday, March 29

WHERE: Intersection of Theodore Street and Washington Road in the Sunnyland section of East Peoria (catty-corner from the Northern Tazewell Fire Station)

WHY: Bill Maher, a pharmacist and community activist, established a memorial many years ago to pay tribute to local war veterans in East Peoria and Washington. Maher paid for the memorial and its upkeep out of his own pocket. Since Maher's death in 2007, the memorial has received little attention and needs restoration and improvements.

The Bill Maher Veterans Memorial Committee is raising funds for a new memorial featuring a black granite wall with the names of veterans, new park benches, an illuminated flag pole, and low-maintenance, environmentally conscious design improvements. To date the committee has raised \$10,000, with a goal in monetary and in-kind donations of \$60,000. Residents who would like to have a veteran's name engraved on the wall can do so for \$100. Once the fundraising goal is reached, the City of East Peoria will arrange for the construction of the new memorial and the improvements.

PHOTO AND VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES: Speakers at the fundraising kick-off will be East Peoria Mayor Dave Mingus, Washington Mayor Gary Manier, Kathy Perhay of the Sunnyland Business Association and James Talaska of American Legion Post 100.

CONTACT AT EVENT: Robert Cole of the Bill Maher Veterans Memorial Committee.

Questions regarding this media advisory should be directed to Jill Peterson, City of East Peoria public relations coordinator, 427-7768 (office) or 264-2909 (cell).

BILL MAHER VETERANS MEMORIAL RESTORATION
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN KICKOFF
ON SITE - THURSDAY MARCH 29th, 11 am

SPECIAL GUESTS:
JAMES TALASKA - AMERICAN LEGION POST 100
KATHY PERHAY - SUNNYLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
DAVE MINGUS - MAYOR OF EAST PEORIA, IL
GARY MANIER - MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, IL