

AMERICAN LEGION

JOHN E. JACOBS LEGION POST 68 LELAND
MEDIA RELEASE

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Submitted by:

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For Publication:

PRESENTATION OF COLORS AT FOUNDERS PARK OPENING CEREMONIES

Members of the American Legion's John E. Jacobs Post 68, along with members of VFW Post 12196 and the North Brunswick High School JROTC, participated in the Presentation of Colors during the re-dedication of Leland's Founders Park on Friday evening, July 31. The recently renovated park at 113 Town Hall Drive had been closed since late 2023. It now features a Veterans Memorial, an amphitheater, walking paths, and a splash pad. A tribute stone honoring Leland's John E. Jacobs (U.S. Army, Specialist 4), who was killed in action in Vietnam in October 1968, forms the memorial's cornerstone. Jacobs is the namesake of Legion Post 68.



Front Row L-R: Cadet SSgt Bryan Bailey-Garcia, 1LT Derrius Bass, CAPT Adrian Dexiga, 1st SGT Erick Martinez; Gerald Decker, Commander, VFW Post 12196; Patty Kelly (VFW), John Marone (VFW), and Frank Pain (Post 68);

Second Row L-R: CPT George King, OIC, George Speer (VFW), Tom Powers, Commander, Post 68; Kobe Kelley (VFW), and John Hacker (Post 68).

Hundreds of area residents attended the reopening, which also marked the first event in the *Live in Leland* concert and entertainment series. Post 68, along with dozens of local nonprofit organizations and small businesses, set up information booths and provided giveaways. Local vendors offered a variety of food and refreshments. The acclaimed band The Embers, featuring Graig Woolard, entertained attendees throughout the evening. A list of planned live entertainment events, including Departure: The Journey Tribute Band on August 13, is available at <https://www.townofleland.com/news/town-launches-new-live-leland-series-founders-park>.

To learn more about the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, visit <https://www.ncpost68.org/>. Membership meetings are typically held in the banquet room at Blossoms Restaurant (1800 Tommie Jacobs Drive, Leland) on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Dinner is an informal gathering for members, starting between 4:30 pm and 5:00 pm. The official meeting begins at 6:00 pm. After the meeting, members socialize over drinks in the Blossoms bar area. Everyone is welcome: members, visitors, guests, and spouses. NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict, the next Post 68 meeting is on Wednesday, August 19.

