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Bethune statue unveiled

By Laura Bennett-Kimble,
Contributing Editor

Last week, the daughter of enslaved Americans was recognized with a statue unveiling at the Lake County Historic Courthouse in Tavares. The Lake County Historical Society sponsored the event.

The sculpture represents Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, a philanthropist, humanitarian and civil and women's rights activist who founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935, with Florida's headquarters located in Clermont.

"Since the Legislature of Florida in 2018 designated Dr. Bethune as the subject of one of Florida's two statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, her statue replaced Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith," the historical society said in a news release. "A statue of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was unveiled on July 13, 2022, in the U.S. Capitol, making her the first black American represented in the National Statuary Hall Collection."

That marble statue was created by sculptor Nilda Comas, who also sculpted Bethune's Lake County statue and Bethune-Cookman University's bronze statue situ-



Sculptor Nilda Comas unveils the statue with Lake County Historical Society board members. Courtesy Lake County Historical Society.



Before retiring each night at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune read from the Bible, as shown in this photo from the Library of Congress collection.

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Walk for Veterans event set for Nov. 4 – register now!



Would you like to support local veterans while getting exercise and having fun?

The inaugural Walk for Veterans will kick off Nov. 4 at 9 a.m. in the air-conditioned comfort of Lake Square Mall in Leesburg. The entry fee to attend the 3-mile walk is \$30, and all of the fees will be donated to three veterans 501(c)(3) organizations.

All walkers will be entered in a drawing for six gift certificates to be awarded during the event.

The fundraiser, hosted by Triangle News Leader, Clermont News Leader, D-R Media and Lake Square Mall, will benefit 501(c)(3) organizations Wreaths Across America, Amvets Post 1992 in Mount Dora and Villagers for Veterans.

Villagers for Veterans is focused on getting its Ashley House transition home for female veterans open. The group and Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter broke

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