

## GUEST SPEAKER - DR. TERISA C. RILEY

Dr. Terisa C. Riley was named chancellor of the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith by University of Arkansas System President Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt on April 16, 2019, and began her appointment on July 1 that year.



For nearly 30 years, she has dedicated her career to fostering access, opportunity, and success through education. Throughout her career, she has served in virtually every facet of higher education at both public and private universities. As a first-generation college student herself, Dr. Riley values public universities' missions to provide excellent and affordable educational opportunities, and she is committed to cultivating an inclusive campus where students and employees are valued, respected, and supported.

Chancellor Riley leads UAFS with a commitment to open communication, transparency, and shared governance. She has collaborated with campus leaders and stakeholders to prepare and implement strategic plans to drive enrollment and improve graduation rates, optimized spending practices, implemented campus reorganization and rebranding processes, and launched university-wide investments in student success practices. She has also invested heavily in technology to enhance education, open access, and reduce economic burdens for students.

She is dedicated to serving her community, currently serving as the chair of the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce and on board of directors of the Van Buren chamber of commerce, Fort Smith United Way, US Marshals Museum, Fort Smith Regional Council, Fort Smith Workforce Council, and Arvest Bank. Dr. Riley is the vice president of the Lone Star Athletic Conference and holds several membership positions on boards within the University of Arkansas System.

Dr. Riley earned her bachelor's degree in communication and master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Missouri at Columbia and her doctorate in higher education administration and research methodology from Saint Louis University. She is also a graduate of the National Police Institute and the Governor's Executive Development Program at the University of Texas at Austin.

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Things to Do in Fort Smith

## EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Alma High School NJROTC  
American Legion Auxiliary  
First Lutheran School  
Fort Smith Chorale  
Fort Smith EMS  
Fort Smith Fire Department  
Fort Smith Parks & Recreation  
Fort Smith Police Department  
Fort Smith Public Schools  
Fort Smith Roundtable/Golden Knights and Jewels

Fort Smith Street Department (A Team)  
Greenwood High School JROTC  
Northside High School JROTC  
River Valley Marine Corps League  
Sebastian County Sheriff's Department  
Southside High School JROTC  
U.S. Department of Justice

# Christmas Honors

## CEREMONY

**SATURDAY, DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**FORT SMITH NATIONAL CEMETERY**  
**11:00 AM AT THE PAVILION**



# Schedule of Events

## 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Family Time

Please respect this time to allow the families of our heroes to lay wreaths on their loved one's headstone(s).

## 11:00 a.m. – Ceremony at the Pavilion

### 11:30 a.m. – Laying of the Wreaths

Immediately following the ceremony, attendees will be asked to lay wreaths on all remaining headstones.

- Please do not start to lay wreaths until the ceremony is complete.
- One wreath per headstone unless both spouses are veterans.
- Lean the wreath on the front of the headstone. Please do not wrap it on top.

You can donate online at

# ChristmasHonors.org

or by mailing a check to:

Christmas Honors  
PO Box 10696  
Fort Smith, AR 72917

*Christmas Honors is a 501c3 tax deductible organization.*

## Save the Date

### Wreath Pick Up and Storage

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Fort Smith Convention Center Hall C at 9:00AM

## PROGRAM

*Vocal Prelude*  
*"My Country 'Tis of Thee"*..... Members of Fort Smith Chorale  
*Under the Direction of William Cromer*

*Welcome*.....Marshall Murphy  
*Director of Fort Smith National Cemetery*

*Presentation of Colors*.....Honor Guard  
*Fort Smith Police Department*

*National Anthem*.....Gabrielle Gore  
*Nashville Recording Artist*

*Invocation*.....Rev. Phillip Blackburn  
*First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith*

*Welcome*.....The Honorable Mayor George B. McGill  
*City of Fort Smith Mayor and United States Army Veteran*

*Wreath Ceremony*.....Philip H. Merry, Jr.  
*Chairman, Christmas Honors*  
*Northside High School JROTC Grizzly Battalion*  
*Fort Smith Fire Department*

**Justin Legris**—AR Army National Guard, 2nd Lt.

**James Anderson**—United States Navy Veteran

**Robert Cates**—United States Air Force Lt. Col. Ret.

**Will Dawson**—United States Marine Corps Veteran

*Police Chief, Greenwood, Arkansas*

**Zac Phillips**—United States Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class

**Larry Todd**—United States Navy CDR, Ret.

*representing United States Merchant Marines*

**Danny Baker**—All Branches POW/MIA, United States Army Veteran

*Police Chief, Fort Smith, Arkansas*

*Christmas Honors*  
*Volunteer Hall of Fame*.....William "Bob" Robert Newbold

## PROGRAM (cont'd)

*Guest Speaker Introduction*.....Philip H. Merry, Jr.  
*Chairman, Christmas Honors*

*Guest Speaker*.....Dr. Terisa C. Riley  
*Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith*

*Choral Selection*  
*"Joy to the World"*.....Members of Fort Smith Chorale  
*Under the Direction of William Cromer*

*Benediction*.....Rev. Tasha Blackburn  
*Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith*

*Closing Remarks*.....Philip H. Merry Jr.  
*Chairman, Christmas Honors*

*Ceremonial Rifle Salute*.....River Valley Marine Corps League  
*Detachment #1248*

*Taps*.....Justin Legris

*Laying of the Wreaths*.....Fort Smith Fire Fighters  
and Pipe and Drum Corp

### *Christmas Honors Board of Directors*

Philip H. Merry, Jr. - *Chairman*

Claude Legris - *Vice Chairman of Event Coordination*

Todd Mccorkle - *Vice Chairman of Operations*

Elly Gibbons - *Secretary/Treasurer*

Danny Baker, Jim Berngen, Shawna Burgess, Kelly Clark, Casey Collyar, David Ferguson, Johnny Helms, Scott Hunter, Lea Taylor, & Larry Todd

### *Advisory Board*

Arline Coatney, Melissa Hanesworth, Kyra Jenner, & Sheri Neely

### *Event Team*

Marvin Chapin, Victoria Hardy, Bryan & Kat Merry, & Earl Massey