



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
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*Press Release***



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Louisiana Home Front Celebration 2004

Fort Polk, LA – Fort Polk, in cooperation with the cities of Leesville, DeRidder, Alexandria, Pineville, Natchitoches, Lake Charles, Many and Ball, is working to finalize plans for the Louisiana Home Front Celebration. The event is one of Louisiana's largest celebrations designed to recognize all members of the armed forces: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, and their families. The celebration is set for 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, September 25th, in downtown historic Leesville.

The event will begin with a Ticker Tape parade, akin to the World War II era style parades and is will follow a historic 1.2-mile stretch of land tied to the famous Louisiana Maneuvers of the 1940s. The route extends from 3rd and Mechanic streets to Berry Avenue and is now referred to as "Freedom's Trail". The parade will consist of military marching units from throughout Louisiana, the US Navy Band from New Orleans, historical vehicles, Junior ROTC units, community floats, celebrities, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, Grambling State Band and more! Confetti and American flags will be provided.

Military and civilian aircraft are scheduled to fly over Freedom's Trail throughout the day. A featured fly over is planned to begin the parade about 9:30 a.m. and Freedom's Bell will be rung every hour from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. by Louisiana youth at the Old Courthouse.

Freedoms Trail is divided into 3 sections of entertainment; red, white and blue. The parade will begin in the red section at 3 rd Street and La HWY 467 and finish at the end of the blue section at the Leesville High School stadium on Berry Avenue. After the parade leaves each section entertainment will kick off with a variety of entertainment events including cultural activities, community carnivals, re-enactment activities and performances by some of America's best musicians.

Red Zone (University Parkway to Lula Street):

The Red Zone features Louisiana Craft Guild Artists, a mechanical bull, Vernon Parish, Lake Charles and Southwest Louisiana Community carnivals, an information and relaxation station, history displays, wonderful characters in costume, celebrity visits, entertainment, food and fun.

-more-

LAHFC Schedule 2 of 4

RED ZONE Stage 1 - West LA Museum Building Stage- 3rd Street:

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.: (Immediately Following Parade) Gospel Christian group, 1st Pentecostal Church

11:15 a.m.- 12 p.m.: Katie Floyd and Ms. Betty

12 - 1 p.m.: Brad and Shelly

1 - 1:15 p.m.: Servicemembers Recognition

1:15 - 2 p.m.: Katie Floyd and Ms. Betty

2 - 2:45 p.m.: Sam the Sham

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.: Wade Meeks

4:15 - 5:15 p.m.: Refitters

5:15 - 5:30 p.m.: Jerry Nadeau – US Army NASCAR Driver

5:30 - 7 p.m.: “Say Goodbye to Gravity”

White Zone (Lula Street to Berry Avenue):

The White Zone features trolley cars, Old Courthouse, the Honor and Remembrance Ceremony, military history displays and actors, Sabine Parish Community Carnival, US Marine fun display, a motorcycle party, an information and relaxation station, history displays, wonderful characters in costume, celebrity visits, entertainment, square dancers, food and fun.

White Zone Stage 2 - Old Courthouse

9 a.m.: Freedom’s Bell Ringer “Hark, It’s Only in America- The greatest place I know Let Freedom Ring”- Bell Rings – Vernon Parish Community Choir sings

9:15 a.m.: Gen Beauregard speaks

9: 20 a.m.: General Patton speaks

Apx 11 a.m.: Vernon Parish Community Choir sings

11:15 a.m.: General Patton speaks to crowd from the Courthouse steps

2 - 3 p.m.: Louisiana Square Dancers perform on the street in front of Courthouse

3 p.m.: General Patton speaks to crowd

3:30 p.m.: Honor and Remembrance Ceremony

4 p.m.: Jerry Nadeau, US Army NASCAR Driver, signs autographs

5 p.m.: Celebrity Introduction

6 p.m.: Louisiana Square Dancers perform on the street in front of Courthouse

White Zone Stage 3 - Celebrations Banquet Hall

11:40 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Preview of In The Shadow of the Blade (TM), *Film produced highlighting the heroes of Vietnam and the UH-1*

4 p.m.: US Navy Band Soloists play outside Hall

4:30 - 6 p.m.: US Navy Band – New Orleans

7 - 8 p.m.: Bob Gauthier performing US Fort Polk Fighting Machine from his latest album Freedom Rocket and more

White Zone Stage 4 - American Legion – Outside Showmobile

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs

12:45 - 1:45 p.m.: Rockin Dopsie Jr. and the Zydeco Twisters

1:45 - 2:15 p.m.: Military Tributes

2:15 - 3:15 p.m.: NaNaSha

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.: KrossRoadz

5:15 - 7 p.m.: StoneCrop

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LAHFC Schedule 3 of 4

Blue Zone (Berry Avenue to Belview):

The Blue Zone features a special Kids Zone featuring Mallorey Lewis and Lambchop in four different performances through out the day, along with children entertainers from throughout Louisiana. The area will also feature the Alexandria-Pineville Community Carnival, military history displays and actors, a mobile unit from the D-Day Museum, re-enactments of Vietnam and World War II, "A Home Front Tribute" Ceremony, celebrity visits, entertainment, food and fun. The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders will also visit for a while after the parade.

Stage 5 and 5A: Leesville High School Stadium (Blue Zone)

12:30 p.m.- 1:15 p.m. (Stage 5A): Leland Martin

1:30 p.m. (Stage 5): "A Home Front Tribute" Ceremony

2 - 2:15 p.m. (Stage 5): Leland Martin performs patriotic songs

2:15 - 3:15 p.m. (Stage 5A): Louisiana Express

3:15 - 4:15 p.m. (Stage 5): Wayne Toups

4:30 - 5:15 p.m. (Stage 5A): Bob Gauthier performing US Fort Polk Fighting Machine from his latest album Freedom Rocket

5:30 - 6:45 p.m. (Stage 5): Aaron Tippin

With thousands are expected to attend; shuttle buses will be required in order to get to the festivities. Free shuttle service for the general public will start at 6:30 a.m. from the Vernon Parish Fair Grounds off of LA Hwy 8 (Texas Highway). Other shuttle services for Fort Polk personnel will be provided at the Warrior Community Center and Bldg 350 on South Fort Polk and at the Alligator Lake Parking area on North Fort Polk.

Participants will not be allowed to bring coolers or uncased carry items on buses. No glass containers or alcohol allowed. Use of portable strollers, backpacks and waist carries is encouraged. Some items may be subject to search.

Military families will eat one meal free along with a drink and snack as part of this special tribute. Any servicemember and family can show identification and receive a great meal. Public vendors will be available on site for food and drink purchase.

Title sponsors are Alford Motors, KVVP/KROK/KUMX, Coca- Cola, Byrd Regional Hospital, First Command Financial Planning, Mc Donald's, Domino's Pizza. Special thanks goes to Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Home Depot, Leesville Motors, Louisiana Cattleman's Association, Louisiana Beef Industry Council, CLECO, and GEICO.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information about Freedom's Trail, anyone can reference the Fort Polk website at: <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>

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