



Field of Heroes

Central Ohio's Memorial Day Weekend Tradition

Memorial Day Weekend, May 26 - 29, 2017



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Westerville Sunrise Rotary Presents Ninth Annual Field of Heroes

WESTERVILLE, OHIO – The Westerville Sunrise Rotary Club is set to host the ninth annual Field of Heroes this Memorial Day weekend (May 26-29). The event is held at the corner of Cleveland Avenue and County Line Road West in Westerville.

The centerpiece of the Field of Heroes is a breathtaking 100,000+ square foot field of 3,000 eight-foot tall flags. The flags provide an opportunity for community members to honor their personal heroes - whoever they are... a family member, a veteran, a member of the armed services, a teacher, a police officer or firefighter, or any other person who has made an impact on others' lives.

The 2017 Field of Heroes theme will pay tribute to POW/MIA. The opening ceremony, held on Saturday, will feature Ann Mills-Griffiths who serves as Chairman of the National League of POW/MIA Families in Washington D.C. The National League of POW/MIA Families, incorporated on May 28, 1970, was formed to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War. The Field of Heroes education tent will have representatives from the National League of POW/MIA Families, Summit for Soldiers, and Honor Flight, as well as "The Missing Man Table." The tribute field will display a 1,500-square foot American flag created by potted wave petunias. Additionally, there will be a statue that displays the missing man formation, an aerial salute performed as part of a fly-past of aircraft at a memorial event typically in memory of a fallen, well-known military service member or veteran. Each branch of service is represented by a coin in the mixed red, white and blue garden that surrounds the pond.

Back for the fifth year is the Field of Heroes 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, May 28th, presented by OhioHealth. The run/walk will draw 1,800 participants (making it the largest race in Westerville), and will benefit Summit for Soldiers, whose mission is to utilize outdoor adventure programs to provide camaraderie, support, education, and encouragement as a therapeutic approach to healing and recovery for veterans, service-members and family members who are living with or suffering from service-related mental health injuries or loss to suicide.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday at noon, the name of each hero honored with a flag will be read from the event stage. Other weekend events include opening and closing ceremonies, a Saturday evening concert featuring the Central Ohio Brass Band, a flag retirement ceremony led by the Boy Scouts, and the nightly playing of "Taps" at sunset.

All are invited to visit the Field of Heroes 24 hours a day, between 5:00 pm Friday, May 26 and 1:00 pm Monday, May 29 to join in remembering and honoring the community's heroes, and re-connecting with the true meaning of Memorial Day. The event officially opens with a special ceremony Saturday morning at 9:30 am.

For more information about the 2017 Field of Heroes visit www.fieldofheroes.org

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