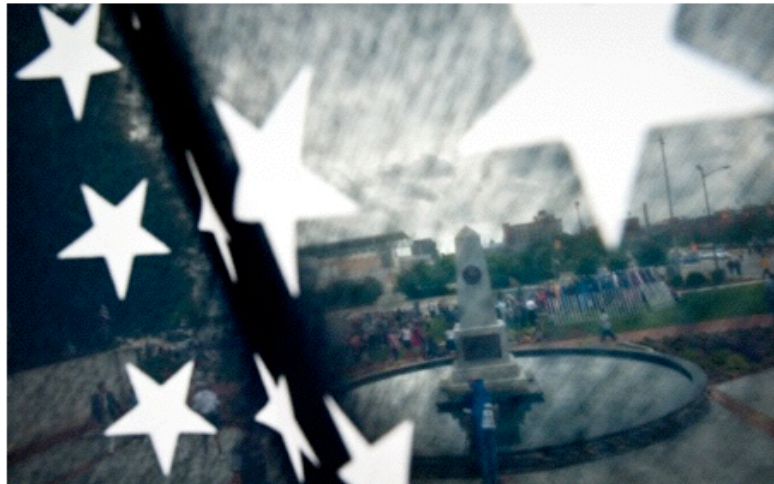


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Glory Days: Fayetteville celebrates those who serve in military



Staff file photo

The conclusion of last year's Memorial Day ceremony at Freedom Memorial Park is seen through an American flag fluttering in the wind.

By Brian Dukes
Staff writer

All events are in downtown Fayetteville. Go to www.glorydaysnc.com or www.31daysofglory.com for a schedule.

The annual Glory Days event will be Monday, Memorial Day, to celebrate Fayetteville's military heritage and honor those who serve in the Armed Forces.

"There's so much to do, so many different ways to thank the men and women who serve our country and put themselves in harm's way," said Chris Villa, vice president of the Downtown Alliance, which organizes Glory Days.

Villa said the event has grown over the years, bringing several thousand people downtown to honor troops, and also have a good time. Glory Days has evolved to include activities throughout the weekend.

"We couldn't be any happier going into this weekend," Villa said.

Here is a look at the highlights:

Friday

Liberty Luminarias will be lit at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum on Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. 100 Bragg Blvd.

Sunday

"The Blind Side," starring Oscar winner Sandra Bullock, will be shown at Festival Park at 7:30 p.m. Concessions will be on sale. Lawn chairs and blankets are welcome. Admission is free. The film is rated PG-13.

Monday

Patriots Criterium bicycle races: A series of races will start at 8 a.m. on Hay Street. Online registration at BikeReg.com closes Friday. On-site registration opens 90 minutes before the first race. Go to crosscreekcyclingclub.org/portal/.

Walk a Mile in their Boots starts at 9:15 a.m. and takes walkers from Festival Park to Freedom Memorial Park.

Freedom Memorial Park Ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at 101 Bragg Blvd.

The Glory Days celebration events will move to Festival Park where there will be a pancake breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. (\$5 per plate), a classic car cruise-in, a vintage military equipment exhibit, food, arts and crafts, live music, street performers, bounce houses and pony rides.

Brigadier Gen. Al Aycock will officially kickoff Glory Days at 10 a.m. at Festival Park. Aycock is the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

The musical lineup at Festival Park is: In One Accord, a Christian choral group (10 a.m.), the Fayetteville Symphony Brass Quintet (11:20 a.m.), folk and country-rocker Kenny Huffman (12:40 p.m.), the blues music of The Robbie Reid Band (2 p.m.), and bluegrass music from The Stephenson Brothers and Linda (3:20 p.m.).

Throughout the weekend

The field of American flags are on display behind the Airborne & Special Operations Museum. Each flag represents a soldier or unit. The flags will be on display through June 29.

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/05/27/1001456?sac=Home>