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Five-day program to honor veterans

Saturday, May 26, 2007

By Tom Haroldson

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Speeches, displays, veteran discussions and even a baseball game and concert are all part of the first "Lest We Forget Our Vets" five-day Memorial Day symposium in Portage and at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground.

From Monday through Friday, the events in Portage and at the fairgrounds will include speakers, military displays, roundtable discussions for veterans and other attractions. It will end with a Friday USO Style Review concert at the fairgrounds.

T.W. Lane, a veteran of the Vietnam War who runs a traveling military museum, organized the event after seeing the response to a smaller, five-day symposium for veterans held last year in St. Joseph. He has lined up several veterans in the area to take part in the symposium.

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- French pressed to quit County board chairman plans letter seeking drain commissioner's resignation
- Chemistry leads to new director for junior orchestra
- Weather about to flip for Super Saturday
- 14-Day Archive

BLOGS

Kalamazoo Gazette 24/7

- Holiday traffic deaths fall 9:53 a.m. ET
- New director chosen for junior symphony 9:29 a.m. ET
- Deal would save troopers' jobs 7:56 a.m. ET

TOP NEWS



AP Photo

A GOP report urges the state to expand efforts to keep inmates from returning to prisons and warns against the state's plan to release thousands of prisoners.

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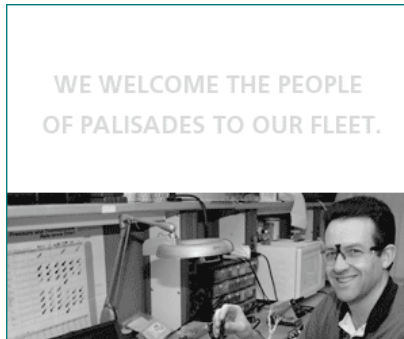
- Kalamazoo forum

Kalamazoo Talk

- Welfare Program Creates... by EqualisEqual 05/30/2007 11:05 a.m. ET
- TCarter by ballocks 05/29/2007 10:40 p.m. ET
- compare to mississippi by landingteam 05/29/2007 10:10 p.m. ET
- on this memorial day by ballocks 05/26/2007 12:41 p.m. ET
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'Lest We Forget Our Vets'

Events take place in Portage and at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake Street. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, there will be military displays and information booths at the fairground, including dioramas of major battles, uniforms from around the world, military vehicles, war-time collectibles, Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs, VA Medical Center of Battle Creek, Fort Custer National Cemetery, American Legion & Auxiliary, VFW & Auxiliary, DAV, Blue Star Mothers, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Mobile Law Office. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the fairground, veterans' stories will be taped for a Library of Congress history project. For information, contact T.W. Lane at 344-5555.

Monday

9 a.m. -- Participants for Portage parade gather at Old Navy at Southland Mall on South Westnedge Avenue.

10 a.m. -- Parade begins.

Noon -- Service conducted by American Legion Post 207 and VFW Post 5855 at Portage Veterans Memorial Park.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- Grilled lunch prepared by the Kalamazoo AMBUCS at Portage Central Park, behind the police department on Shaver Road. Music by The Kings of Romance at the Overlander Bandshell.

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