

War on Terror Wall to receive escort through MV

Organizers are excited about this year's LCPL J. Kyle Price Ride

BY TRAVIS MORSE
TMORSE@MORNINGSENTINEL.COM

MOUNT VERNON — Mount Vernon residents are encouraged to come out and show their patriotism and support as the Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance is escorted through the city on Thursday afternoon.

The wall's visit to town coincides with this year's 20th annual Lance Cpl. J. Kyle Price Memorial Ride on Saturday, April 25, at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. The wall will be brought through town with a police escort starting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23. The parade route will begin at the Muni-West Building and travel down Illinois Highway 15 to the airport. The public is encouraged to come outside and wave flags and greet the procession as it passes by.

The wall will then be open

for public viewing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, at the airport.

"I really want to try to get people to come out and look at the wall on both of those days," said John Hunsell, an organizer of the Kyle Price Ride and Kyle's step-father. "We're really excited about this wall coming in because it shows a lot of names from 1983 up until present (day). We want to educate people on why those names are on that wall."

The wall procession will be led by Jefferson County and Mount Vernon law enforcement, Hunsell said.

"We're going to bring it through town to let everyone know it's here, and give it a formal welcome by bringing it through town," Hunsell said.

The wall is a traveling memorial dedicated to honoring veterans and victims of the Global War on Terror. It includes those affected by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Sentinel archives state.

MEMORIAL RIDE

Meanwhile, organizers are excited about this year's Lance

Cpl. J. Kyle Price Memorial Ride, and they are expecting a good-sized turnout.

"From what we're hearing now, there's going to be quite a few people there," Hunsell said. "I think the wall has a lot to do with it and the fact that it's our 20th year. A lot of these rides don't stick around for this long."

Cheryl Price-Hunsell, J. Kyle Price's mom and co-organizer of the ride, said that several high schools will bring students out to see the wall on Friday. She also spoke of the positive impact of having the memorial ride and hosting the War on Terror Wall.

"I feel like it's a positive event for our community because it just shows the honor given to the men and women that sacrificed so much for us, but to also support the men and women of our community who did those same things but came home," Price-Hunsell said.

The memorial ride is held annually in memory of J. Kyle Price, a 19-year-old Marine originally from Woodlawn who was killed in Iraq on Jan. 13, 2006. In addition to his military service, Price also gave back to his community as a member

of the Boy Scouts, the Young Marines, and the Mount Vernon soccer team.

Proceeds from the ride go to the Lance Cpl. J. Kyle Price Memorial Foundation, which provides several scholarships to Woodlawn High School students. The foundation also supports various military organizations like the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes, and others, Sentinel archives state.

RIDE SCHEDULE

This year's ride kicks off with registration at noon on Saturday, April 25, at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. During that time, there will also be food from Bonnie Cafe for ride participants, tickets for the 50/50 and raffle, and live music by Dave Simmons.

The opening ceremony will take place at 2 p.m., and the ride will depart at around 4 p.m. that day, with riders traveling around Southern Illinois. The opening ceremony will include remarks about the War on Terror Wall.

Then, the closing ceremony and dinner will be held at around 5 p.m. at Woodlawn Bar. This

will be followed by a raffle drawing at 6:30 p.m. and live music featuring Jeff Bradley and Eastwood Frisch at 7:30 p.m., also at Woodlawn Bar. The public is welcome to attend.

It costs \$30 to participate in the ride, have dinner later that evening, and for a T-shirt. However, if you just want the T-shirt, the cost is \$20 and if you just want the dinner, the cost is \$10. Raffle tickets will also be available. In addition, people can also just come to the event and make a donation of any kind, organizers said.

The ride will be led by the Marine Vets Motorcycle Club, with a full police escort by Jefferson County Sheriff Jeff Bullard. All vehicles and families are welcome to participate.

This year's memorial ride is supported by Woodlawn Bar, Mount Vernon Outland Airport, Bonnie Cafe, Mt. Vernon Tourism, DoubleTree by Hilton in Mount Vernon, and the United Way of South Central Illinois. Organizers also thanked city and county law enforcement and fire departments for their support.

For more information, contact John Hunsell at (618) 978-4738.

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