Marines headed to Upstate for rest, relaxation

Honoring Their Service parade set for Monday

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
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SALEM — Connecting visiting Marines and host families at Keowee Key for the annual Honoring Their Service event has been a bit like matchmaking over the years.

Event organizers gather information about what each Marine likes to do, and a volunteer then goes through their interests to pair them with the ideal family.

Golfers go with golfers, and those who like to hike and fish get hooked up with families that will wake up in the early morning hours to hit the trail or head out onto the lake.

Whichever the case, the bonds created over the years have been the same.

"We like to say they come as strangers and leave as family," Honoring Their Service committee member Tim Callahan said.

Around 40 Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the Marine Corps' South Carolina Wounded Warrior Regiment will head to Oconee County on Monday to connect with those families and receive some thanks from the Upstate.

Honoring Their Service
Estimated Timetable for Motorcycle Escort/Parade

Motorcycle escort departs Owens Complex staging area	2:15
Rock Springs Baptist Church/U.S. 123 intersection	2:25
On U.S. 123 at S.C. 8 overpass	2:32
On S.C. 93 at S.C. 178 intersection/Liberty	2:42
On S.C. 93 at S.C. 137 intersection/Norris	2:50
Continuing on S.C. 93 at mid-town Central	2:56
S.C. 93 merge on to U.S. 123 in Clemson	3:03
U.S. 123 and S.C. 130 intersection (CVS)	3:15
U.S. 123 at S.C. 28/76 intersection (Miracle Cirde) (Travel through City of Seneca)	3:20
U.S. 123 at S.C. 130 intersection (CVS)	3:27
On S.C. 130 traveling along the Waterford Communities	3:35
North on S.C. 130 at S.C. 183 Wells Fargo Bank	3:42
S.C. 130 to Keowee Key north entrance	3:47
In Keowee Key – south flagship to south exit gate	3:55
S.C. 130/183 to Duke Energy's World of Energy	4:00
Lighthouse Restaurant – final destination for escort	4:05

All times are estimates of when the lead S.C. Highway Patrol vehicle will be at that location and will likely vary five to 10 minutes depending upon speed or other issues affecting the escort. Plan on approximately 10 to 15 minutes for the entire escort to pass.



FILE

Visiting Marines will come to Salem next week for rest and relaxation for the Honoring Their Service event. The public is invited to join the patriotic parade on Monday afternoon when the motorcade escorts the Marines into Oconee County.

The Marines will be treated to three and a half days of activities including fishing, golfing, river tubing, hiking and archery — but most of all, relaxation.

Before the Marines make it to Salem, they're ushered in by way of a patriotic parade led by hundreds of volunteer motorcyclists.

The public is asked to help line the parade route Monday with signs, flag-waving and expressions of thanks as the motorcade moves from Easley to downtown Seneca and on to Lake Keowee.

Businesses along the route are also encouraged to place a "Welcome" or "Thank You" message on any electronic sign they may have.

The Marines and motorcade will depart the J.B. "Red" Owens Recreation Complex in Easley around 2:15 p.m. traveling down U.S. Highway 123 through Easley before turning on to S.C. Highway 93, which will lead the group through Liberty, Norris and Central.

The motorcade will then rejoin Highway 123 in Clemson and travel into Seneca.

In Seneca, the route will turn at Miracle Circle onto North First Street and travel through downtown Seneca before heading to Lake Keowee via S.C. Highway 130.

This is the seventh year of the Honoring Their Service event, which Callahan said started when a lake resident being treated at the Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital in Greenville wanted to give back and helped the hospital offer water events to military personnel.

Today, the partnership with the hospital continues and the event has grown to have a regional impact, allowing the community the chance to express continued gratitude.

"We just want to say thank you for what they do for us and have done for us and continue to do for us, day in and day out," Callahan said. "The active-duty people are still carrying on the fight, but those who have been medically retired, they're continuing to fight, too — it's just a personal fight that they have going on."

"Honoring Their Service provides the entire Upstate community the opportunity to say thank you, face to face, heart to heart," 2015 event chairman Tom Morse said.

For more information on the parade route, visit honoring-their-service.org. Those who would like to make a donation to the Honoring Their Service event should send it to Honoring Their Service Inc., P.O. Box 607 Salem, SC 29676.

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