IndependentMail.com
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Parade to welcome Marines to Upstate

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

Thursday, June 14, 2012

EASLEY — Recuperating Marines will arrive in the Upstate next week and they will be welcomed with a parade Monday afternoon in Easley.

The Marines are from the Marine Special Operations Command in Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment.

The parade will depart at 2:30 p.m. from the J. B. "Red" Owens Sports Complex and will travel along S.C. 93 through Liberty, Norris, Central, Clemson and Seneca, according to organizer Tim Callahan. The public may line the parade route, and motorcyclists are invited to ride in the patriotic escort. There is no registration for motorcyclists.

For the fourth year, 39 homes in the Keowee Key community will host 40 Marines for a variety of activities on Lake Keowee through Thursday.

"The sight of all the people lining the entire parade route is so wonderful to see," Callahan said. "This community has really supported the Marines by showing them we do care about them and all that they have done for our country."

The community partners with the Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital, which is part of the Greenville Hospital System.

Marines can sign up for golf, tennis. hiking, waterskiing, kayaking, archery and more, Callahan said.

"They select what they want to do and we try to make it happen for them," Callahan said.

Physical therapists will assist soldiers and bring equipment to aid them in sports.

Tuesday evening, the city of Seneca will host a Veterans' Appreciation evening that will include food, music and fireworks. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the field at the Gignilliat Community Center. The event is free, and the barbecue dinner costs $4 a plate.

On Thursday, Marines will end their visit touring Clemson University including the West End Zone at Death Valley. They will see Howard's Rock, listen to a speech by the university's athletic director and have lunch before returning to active duty.



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