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Marines to get R&R at Keowee Key

Motorcycle escort planned from Greenville to Oconee

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Hundreds of motorcyclists will escort war-injured Marines from Greenville to Keowee Key today for a few days of well-earned R&R.

The motorcade is the welcome event for the Marines, who were wounded in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Allen Funk, lead organizer of "Honoring Their Service."

Over the next three days, the Marines from Camps Le Jeune and Pendleton will be treated to barbecues, formal dinners and a concert as well as boating, fishing, golfing and waterskiing with the help of Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital and the Keowee Key community in Oconee County.

The veterans, who are in the process of rehabilitation from their injuries, were chosen by the Marine Corps, said Funk. Funk, 63, is the semi-retired owner of Allen Funk's Wallpaper and a Keowee Key resident.

Some will be hosted by local residents while others will stay in condos donated especially for the veterans, he said.

The motorcade will travel along U.S. 123 and State 130, and community members are expected to turn out along the route to welcome the Marines, he said.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our wounded warriors," said Major Michael Armistead, a public affairs officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. Funk said the Upstate community has been tremendously supportive.