



05 February 2016

Greetings Military and veteran related organizations and/or interested parties:

Over the past year many of you have heard me talking about starting an ***Our Community Salutes*** event here in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area. This email serves as an update as well as an SOS for various types of assistance to finalize the activity.

Our Community Salutes of Greater Charlottesville is a recognition ceremony for all of our young men and women that will be entering the US Armed Forces (all Services) after high school graduation. This includes those recruits that will be going on Active Duty, the Reserves and the National Guard. The ***Our Community Salutes*** national organization can be found at www.ourcommunitysalutes.org

This event will also be presenting The General Colin L. Powell Service Award for Leadership to the high school educator who best supports young adults desiring to serve in the US Armed Forces following graduation.

The ceremony will take place on Saturday morning, 30 April from 10 AM to 12 PM. Our host sponsor is Albemarle County and the venue is Lane Auditorium, County Office Building at 401 McIntire Road. There is plenty of free parking on site. Mark your calendars!

American Legion Post 74 is serving as our Finance Executive Agent and all contributions should be sent there and clearly annotated for the ***Our Community Salutes*** event. Address is 3025 Louisa Road, Keswick, VA 22947

In play now is the military and civilian keynote speakers, the Master of Ceremony and band. We should have this locked in shortly. We have a photographer.

Where we need some assistance:

We need a printing facility or company that can produce (pro bono preferably) the invitations and the program. It will be camera ready and we already have a logo. The program will include the logos of any of our financial or "in kind" sponsors.

We need a volunteer to handle our Facebook account and to establish a basic website for us. A Facebook page has been established but it is not yet populated with anything. You can still go into it and "like" us. It is ***Our Community Salutes of Greater Charlottesville***.



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We will need additional volunteers (1) on the date of the event assigned a specific task, (2) to be a liaison with our various recruiters and Distinguished Visitor attendees, and (3) miscellaneous tasks. If you, individually, or your organization, collectively would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Other ideas for a Band? Charlottesville Municipal Band has been contacted and they are working the possibility right now. We would like a few alternative options to explore if this is not viable for the Municipal Band. A choir could also be a neat option.

Goody Bags- We are looking at about 75 recruits. While this may be in the category of “too hard to do for our first year”, we think it would be a wonderful way to say thank you for your decision to serve. I have a number of ideas for what could go in the bags and where we could obtain donations/coupons. If any group or organization would like to take this on, let me know.

Funding: So what else is new? We have raised the funds necessary to provide lunch for the recruits, their families and the Recruiters but will need to fund the printing needs and other various items. Further, there is now an **Our Community Salutes** challenge coin that runs about \$4 per coin. Is there any organization, person or otherwise that would like to fund that specifically?

Morale Support- Let’s fill the auditorium and show these kids and their parents that we appreciate and support their decision to enter the military.

There is much more to this event, but this note is already too long. Additional updates will be sent as we move forward. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Lettie J. Bien
Colonel, USAR (Ret)
Army Reserve Ambassador
Commonwealth of Virginia



OUR
COMMUNITY
SALUTESSM

Greater Charlottesville