

Vietnam vets arriving for bi-annual reunion

Written by George Browning
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Vietnam Veterans from across America will be arriving in Southern Indiana later this week for a bi-annual reunion.

Sharon Boaz, who along with her husband Stewart, organizes the event, said there will be 85 or more will take part in the event, which begins Thursday at 3 p.m.

Veterans will arrive in Corydon, at the Hampton Inn, for check-in.

On Friday the group will travel to Hueber's in Starlight and spend the day there.

That night, there will be a pizza party.

On Saturday, the group will travel along State Road 135 to a memorial service at Palmyra United Methodist Church.

The service is to remember those who served, but have passed away since the last reunion.

Boaz said he is asking that folks line the side of the road between 9 and 10.

The group will be easy to spot as they will be escorted by the Patriot Guard motorcycle group.

"A lot of these guys never received a heroes welcome when they arrived home from the war, Boaz said, "so, it would be nice for folks to come out and make them feel like the heroes they are."

She said some of them will be experiencing the reunion for the first time this year.

Every time we do this we always have a couple more we found in-between the last reunion, so it's nice that they get to experience people celebrating them.

Boaz encourages those who can make it to wave the flags as the veterans pass by.

According to Boaz, a fire truck from Ramsey is supposed to be at the intersection with later raised with a flag on it in honor of the veterans.

Once the memorial service, which will be lead by a military chaplin from Fort Knox, is complete, the group will head to the Boaz home in Fredericksburg where they will have a picnic lunch under a 150 year-old Pumpkin-Ash tree on their property.

Boaz said the tree is registered as the biggest in the state.

The idea for the reunion started when one of the daughters of a soldier who was serving with Stewart began searching for men her father served with.

Her search led her to Stewart and the idea for the reunion was born.

The daughter still attends the reunions, which began in 2001.

The reunion ends Sunday as the veterans check out of the hotel and return home.