

A Salute To America's Military Veterans

(NAPSA)—Pigeon Forge, Tenn., one of America's top vacation destinations, will pay tribute to America's military heroes during Celebrate Freedom!™ The second annual veterans salute is scheduled for August 11-25 and a variety of events will take place throughout the city. Pigeon Forge is located at the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains on the eastern side of the state.

The 2001 event will cover several conflicts with special attention being paid to the veterans of the Korean War. Two notable Korean War veterans will be keynote speakers during Celebrate Freedom!

Gen. Alexander Haig, Jr. will be the keynote speaker on August 21. Haig's military assignments included service in Japan, Korea, Europe and Vietnam. His service to America took him to the Pentagon and the White House where he served under Presidents Nixon, Ford and Reagan. It was during Ronald Reagan's term in office that Haig served as the nation's 59th Secretary of State.

Wally Schirra, one of America's original Mercury Seven astronauts, will speak on August 18. Schirra was an F-86 Sabre exchange pilot with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

Operation Liberty, a land and air Parade along the Pigeon Forge Parkway, will kick off the 15-days of Celebrate Freedom! The parade will include veterans of several military conflicts, marching units, active-duty military vehicles and fly-bys of modern and vintage military aircraft.

Other events planned during Celebrate Freedom! include a series of Freedom Forums featuring notable veterans in a roundtable discussion of their experi-



ences. Freedom Forum topics will include the Berlin Airlift, the Cold War, and the Myth and Reality of M*A*S*H. A special series entitled "Journey to Freedom" will include war stories from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. Entertainment during Celebrate Freedom! will include musical concerts and can-teen dances featuring popular music from the decades surrounding WWII and the Korean War.

Major publishers, military historians and authors will be signing and selling books at a Military Book Fair. One of the Freedom Forums presented in conjunction with the Book Fair will cover U.S. military history, beginning with the French & Indian War and ending with America's involvement in Vietnam.

Many of the Celebrate Freedom! events are being co-produced by The University of Tennessee and the city of Pigeon Forge.

Celebrate Freedom! is designed to honor all U.S. military veterans. The event always begins on the second Saturday of August and is expected to become one of the most popular events in Pigeon Forge history. The 2002 event will take place August 10-24 and will focus on the Vietnam War.

More information about Celebrate Freedom! Pigeon Forge Salutes America's Veterans is available by calling 1-800-365-6993 or at www.mypigeonforge.com.