



April 21, 2009

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Virginia City Visitor's Center

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Memorial Day Weekend features Celebration of Heroes Parade

Comstock's Gold Star Family

Comstock's Traditional Patriotic Parade

VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA (April 21, 2009) – Virginia City will honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this nation's freedom with the Annual Memorial Day Weekend Celebration of Heroes Parade down C Street in Virginia City beginning at noon on Saturday, May 23, 2009.



This year Virginia City will offer a special salute to grand marshals, the Bolander Family, Greg and Brenda, whose son, Staff Sgt. Bryan Bolander was killed in Iraq on April 29, 2008. Staff Sgt. Bolander, 26, pictured on left, was on his fourth tour of duty in Baghdad when he was killed from injuries suffered when his vehicle struck an IED, or improvised explosive device. Also honored will be Staff Sgt. Bolander's grandparents, Dorothy and Jack Bolander.

The Bolander's will be joined by the "Red Shirts," groups of Nevadans who express support for U.S. troops by wearing red shirts and walking up and down Carson Street in Carson City on Fridays. The group was started by the family of

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Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua Robert Rodgers of Gardnerville, killed May 30, 2007 when his helicopter was shot down over Afghanistan.

Many other veterans groups are expected to participate, along with non-veteran entries that would just like to honor our fallen heroes.

In addition, the Bolander's will hold a candlelight vigil for their son and grandson on the first anniversary of his death, April 29, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Delta Parking Lot on C Street in the middle of Virginia City.

Anyone wishing to be a part of the Celebration of Heroes Parade can download an entry form from www.VisitVirginiaCityNV.com or should call the Virginia City Visitor's Center at (775) 847-4836 or parade organizer Karen Woodmansee at 847-4768, or be at the Fourth Ward School on the South End of C Street at 11:00 a.m., for the line-up. All entries are welcome.

Taps will be played, along with the national anthem, at the beginning of the parade.

The parade was moved from the traditional Monday so it would not conflict with the solemn ceremonies many veterans participate in to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

For this and other events in Virginia City, you can visit the Virginia City Convention & Tourism Authority website at www.VisitVirginiaCityNV.com or call (775) 847-4FUN (4386) or 800-718-SLVR (7587)