



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
May 15, 2019

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VFW Post to Host Entertainment and Motorcycle Ride in Support of National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

Desert Thunder Riders will Ride from New Freedom, PA to Washington D.C.

Washington, D.C. – The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association is excited to announce that VFW Post 7012 in New Freedom, Pennsylvania is hosting an evening of entertainment on Friday, May 24, 2019 and motorcycle ride the following morning to raise funds toward the building of the Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Desert Thunder Shindig will include a free train ride for veterans provided by Steam Into History, music, food, drink and raffles for prizes including firearms and cash. The festivities will conclude when the New Freedom's police and fire departments escort the Desert Thunder Riders to the edge of town for their departure to Washington, D.C. and their participation in Rolling Thunder (May 26, 2019). The Operation Desert Storm Veterans in the group will also march in National Memorial Day Parade on May 27, 2019 as we remember and honor those who died in active military service.

Host

VFW Post 7012
123 West Main Street
New Freedom, Pennsylvania 17349

Point of Contact

Carmelo Genco
VFW Post 7012
443-798-8399

Evening Events

May 24, 2019
VFW Doors Open at 6:00 PM
Band Begins at 7:30 PM
\$5 door cover
Food and Drinks Available for Sale
Minors are welcome to participate until 10 PM

Desert Thunder Riders Schedule

May 25, 2019
8 AM – VFW Doors Open
9 AM – Train Ride, Free for Veterans
10 AM – Flags for Heroes Ceremony
11 AM – Blessing of the Bikes
11:30 – Police and Fire Department Escort for Riders

1 PM – Lunch at Chubbies BBQ in Emittsberg
245 PM – Arrive in Washington D.C.

In 1991, the United States of America sent a powerful message of international unity and cooperation to Saddam Hussein by opposing and ejecting Iraq's occupying forces and liberating the peaceful nation of Kuwait. The mission undertaken by the United States Armed Forces during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield was a remarkable example of American leadership, values, and sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom.

The Memorial's design will commemorate the historical significance of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm while honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States of America and Coalition military personnel who liberated Kuwait from Iraq and defended Saudi Arabia. The Memorial is projected to be completed by 2021.

In December 2014, President Obama signed the Memorial's enabling legislation. In March 2017, President Trump signed the law authorizing the Memorial to be built near the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in an Area – 1 location. In June 2018, a site located in close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial received approval.

Since 2011, the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association (NDSWM) has worked to achieve its singular mission, construction of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. Our task is the completion and dedication of the memorial on Veterans Day, 2021. All efforts are backed exclusively by private sources, zero taxpayer funds are accepted. NDSWM is a federally recognized, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 structure led by an all-volunteer board of directors.

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