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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Post to ‘welcome home’ retirees at annual appreciation event

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Labor Day weekend will be a busy one for Fort Leonard Wood as military retirees visit the installation to take part in the 36th annual Retiree Appreciation Days.

The events are slated to take place Sept. 4 and 5.

“Retiree Appreciation Days are important because they continue to foster goodwill between the retired and active-duty communities,” said Noah Stevens, Soldier For Life Retirement Services officer.

“Retirees are a vital part of our military Family and their experiences and expertise count,” he said.

The weekend will begin at 8 a.m., Sept. 4 with a golf tournament and luncheon at Piney Valley Golf Course. Also, on Sept. 4, a retirement ceremony is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Lincoln Hall Auditorium and a retiree dinner is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Engineer Regimental Room of the John B. Mahaffey Museum.

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At the dinner, Shirley Janes, a retired Air Force senior master sergeant, will be honored as Fort Leonard Wood Retiree of the Year. Janes served more than 20 years and retired in 1991. Since retirement, she has been involved in numerous employment and volunteer activities benefiting veterans.

Col. Andy Herbst, Fort Leonard Wood U.S. Army Garrison commander, is scheduled to speak at 9 a.m., Sept. 5, in Abrams Theater here, followed by Kenneth Preston, retired Sergeant Major of the Army.

Following the speaking presentations, Stevens said he expects the highlight of Sept. 5 to be the Retiree Day Health and Benefits Fair, beginning at 10 a.m. at Nutter Field House. General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital is scheduled to provide services to retirees and their families at the fair, including information on health issues, physical fitness, medication reconciliation, blood pressure checks, diabetes management, and much more. Several other organizations are scheduled to provide information and assistance to retirees and their spouses.

Schedule of events:

Sept. 4

- 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Golf (four-person scramble), Piney Valley Golf Course lunch following.
- 12:30 to 2 p.m.: Bus tour of post (departs Nutter Field House).
- 3 to 4 p.m.: Retirement Ceremony, Lincoln Hall Auditorium.
- 6 to 9 p.m.: Annual Retiree Dinner, Engineer Regimental Room, John B. Mahaffey Museum.

Sept. 5

- 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.: Breakfast, American Legion Hall, Chapter 331, St. Robert.
- 8:30 to 9 a.m.: Registration Abrams Theater.
- 9 a.m.: Col. Andy Herbst, Fort Leonard Wood U.S. Army Garrison commander, Abrams Theater.
- 9:30 a.m.: Kenneth Preston, retired Sergeant Major of the Army, Abrams Theater.
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Health fair, Nutter Field House.
- 9 a.m. to noon: ID Card Facility open, Dillard Hall, Building 470, Room 2101.
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Lunch at dining facility.
- 1 p.m.: Kathy Lucero, United Health Care, Nutter Field House
- 1:30 p.m.: Door prize giveaway.

There is a \$50 per person cost to take part in the golf tournament; a \$17 per person cost to take part in the retiree dinner and \$5.55 cost, payable at the door, for eating lunch at the dining facility Sept. 5.

Stevens said he encourages all retirees to take advantage of the weekend.

“(This event) keeps the retired Soldiers, their spouses, and annuitant¹s up-to-date on changes in their retirement rights, benefits and privileges,” he said.

For more information, or to register, contact Stevens at 573.596.0131, ext. 66637 or noah.e.stevens.civ@mail.mil.

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Media interested in covering Retiree Appreciation Days, should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.4145, no later than 3 p.m., Sept. 2.

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains about 80,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, and the Army's largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting a colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.
