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‘Spectacular’ Independence Day Event Held in Honor of Local Heroes

JACKSONVILLE, Ark. (June 17, 2009) – The Patriotic Spectacular, held over the 4th of July holiday weekend in Jacksonville, was established eight years ago to celebrate the military heroes that call central Arkansas home. On Saturday, July 3, the event will continue to honor the military, as well as recognize everyday heroes, from the community.

The theme of this year’s Patriotic Spectacular is “With Liberty and Justice for All” and will feature the Patriotic Adult and Youth Choir’s musical perform about America’s history, from pioneer days to the present, as well as other choirs and activities including a Kids Fun Area with inflatable’s, an appearance by Radio Disney, face painting and a culminating fireworks display. The Arkansas Fallen Heroes Memorial will also be on display during the event and throughout the holiday weekend.

Angie Mitchell, event coordinator, said, “The Patriotic Spectacular draws people from all across central Arkansas because it allows families to celebrate Independence Day in a manner deserving of this wonderful holiday.”

Last year’s event had an approximate attendance of 4,000 people.

“We estimate that 80 percent of the attendees are from outside of Jacksonville. It’s thrilling to have so many visit our city during this holiday which holds a special place in our hearts because of all of the military families that call Jacksonville home,” added Mitchell.

Community heroes being honored include military, police, firefighters, educators, medical professionals and city workers. The evening's schedule is as follows:

Kid's Fun Area - 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Local entertainers perform - 7 to 8 p.m.

Patriotic Adult and Youth Choir musical and local hero awards - 8 to 9 p.m.

Fireworks – 9 p.m.

The Patriotic Spectacular is held at Jan Crow Stadium at Jacksonville High School, located at 2400 Linda Lane, and admission is free. Lawn chairs or blankets are recommended for lawn seating. Concessions will be sold.

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