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Purple Lancers proud to play at Healing Field

Posted: Thursday, May 26, 2011 3:00 am

I was extremely overjoyed when I was made aware that the Purple Lancers will be playing in concert at the Field of Dreams at Hoopes Park on Friday, May 27. This event has grown leaps and bounds and I'm confident that it will be an annual event. Hopefully, the Purple Lancers will start a tradition of being an integral part of the festivities. I pray for great weather and I am anxious to see and be ever proud of the presence of the corps at a function that memorializes deceased family members, friends and of course veterans.

Many kudos and thank you go out to the staff who worked so hard in securing a place and function for the Purple Lancers in this worthwhile community affair. It is befitting that the Purple Lancers Drum and Bugle Corps be part of this event. The Lancers made their first performance after an absence 36 of years on Memorial Day 2009. As past president, I would like to mention that in these two years of performances, the Lancers played at many venues throughout New York state and locally. In saying this I just want to state that this event on May 27 will be in my opinion the most profound and meaningful performance to date.

The Lancers were organized in 1949 and was made up of veterans from World War II. Later on they were joined by Korean War Vets. Memorial Day was special to the Lancers. The sound of the corps touched the hearts of many throughout the years. For those who remember those days, relive that drum and bugle corps sound that made the Purple Lancers an Auburn icon. Make it a point to bring your lawn chairs and experience a great evening of speeches, entertainment, fireworks and of course the culmination of the evenings program by listening to the Lancers in concert before the fireworks.

I remember so vividly that when I was a 15-year-old member of the Lancers in 1956, I was so honored to be marching alongside veterans that experienced the battles of the Pacific, Europe and Korea. To listen to these men left me in awe. When they marched, they played with their hearts and minds in honor of their close buddies who never made it back. Gosh what patriotism!

The originators of the Field of Dreams are to be truly commended for all their hard work and vision to rekindle the true spirit of Memorial Day and its true meaning. To the Field Of Dreams committee, my profound gratitude for a job well done.

Please continue this event annually. Your efforts will perpetually keep Memorial Day in perspective and forever keep us all cognizant of the value of freedom that we all experience today. Thank you ever so much for making your dream a reality.

Richard A. Gagliardi

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