



Free fair entry on Saturday for vets

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| Posted: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 7:17 pm

For the second year in a row, the Billings Breakfast Exchange Club will honor people who have served, or are serving, in the military by providing them with free admittance to the final day of MontanaFair.

To get in, they need to go to the fair's north gate in the lower MetraPark parking lot on Aug. 20 and let the ticket booth employees know they are a veteran or active-duty military personnel.

"It's something that we plan on doing every year now," said Rod Ostermiller, of the exchange club. "We feel it's just so important to support them."

Members of the exchange club and the Marine Corps League will be on hand to help and point people in the right direction.

The Breakfast Exchange Club sponsors the event and provides money to MontanaFair for the entrance fees.

Ostermiller said he expects more than 1,000 veterans and service members to attend Saturday.

The club has advertised the event around Eastern Montana in hopes that it'll draw more veterans.

"We see it as an investment in our community and in the men and women who serve in the military," Ostermiller said.

The group also feels the free entry on Saturday works well with the Wall That Heals, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., which is on display at Rimrock Auto Arena from Wednesday through Sunday morning.

Ostermiller said they hope to use it as a segue into the Healing Field, a 9/11 ceremony that features up to 1,000 American flags, sponsored by the club and the Montana State University Billings College of Technology. Flags for that event will be on sale near the wall.

The Billings Breakfast Exchange Club is a nonprofit group that promotes patriotism and, through beer sales at MetraPark, raises money for child abuse prevention and at-risk family programs.