



Cruise 11 Car and Bike Show September 8 Central Park

Release: **Immediate**

On Sunday **September 8**, Decatur will host the 16th annual “Cruise 11 to Remember 9-11” event. Decatur’s Central Park is the location of the car and bike show with entertainment, food, and a remembrance cruise. Any vehicle may enter at the event. Registration begins at 8am on the West side of Central Park. Registration is \$11 at the event. Call 217-791-1385 for more information. Admission to the event is FREE.

Cruise 11 is sponsored by History of the Heartland and serves as a fundraiser to collect donations for the Doug Hagen Memorial Scholarship Fund at MacArthur High School. The scholarship is an annual \$500 award given to a MHS senior. Hagen was the 1964 MHS class President and was killed in action in Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Unique awards are given to those in the Top Ten. Ayn Owens, creator of the event, says “Cruise 11 has raised tens of thousands of dollars for various military and veteran causes. We have provided funds for our community’s World War 2 Memorial, Christmas Stockings were sent to the Troops, boxes for active-duty troops and basic needs of local veterans.” She continues “We are proud to continue honoring a military cause in our 16th year by supporting the annual Hagen scholarship fund.”

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There will be food by 343 BBQ available for purchase on the south side of the park. There will be free entertainment at the Central Park stage from noon until 2pm by Brian Shartzter. At 2:15pm awards and 911 recognition service at Central stage.

Following the ceremony will be the **11-mile BG Nevitt Memorial yellow ribbon "Cruise."** Participants will be given yellow ribbons to show their support of our Troops, thank our Veterans and remember the tragedy of 9-11. The Cruise will begin at the corner of West Main & Merchant streets and go West on Main Street to the Decatur Conference Center and will return on Main to downtown.

Call 217-791-1385 for information about the event.

Sixteen years ago, "Cruise 11 to Remember 911" was created in Memory of Pvt John Gifford of Decatur that enlisted in the Marines after 9-11 and was Killed in Action in Iraq, March 23, 2003. He was the first Illinois casualty of the war

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