

## PRESS RELEASE FOR STARS AND STRIPES CELEBRATION – JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

After months of planning the Stars and Stripes Celebration Committee of Clifton Forge Main Street, Inc. is excited to announce this year's 238<sup>th</sup> Nation's Birthday events. We kicked off our patriotic celebration with a Flag Day Ceremony, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Award-Winning Masonic Amphitheatre. Included in the ceremony was a presentation by Boy Scout Troop #2 of Clifton Forge, featuring some of the historic flags of our nation. In addition there was patriotic music sung by Alan Dale Craft and another reading as well as flag presentations by VFW Posts 4299 & 1033. After honoring the 239<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Army, the ceremony ended with a birthday cake in honor of "Old Glory". Everyone enjoyed the occasion including visitors attending from Roanoke and other areas beyond Clifton Forge.

Many of our area businesses have joined in the spirit of this year's celebration by decorating their buildings. We invite you to take a stroll through town and enjoy their patriotic displays. A number of businesses are featuring tributes to veterans from our area, who have served our country. These tributes evoke many poignant memories for all of us. Their displays will be viewable at least until July 5<sup>th</sup>.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> we will begin the day-long celebration with a parade at 11 AM, through the Historic Downtown area of Clifton Forge. The theme of this year's parade is "Honoring all who served". The public is cordially invited to come out and enjoy the parade. We encourage you to bring an American Flag to wave proudly as the parade passes by. We also urge anyone who would like to participate in the parade to contact our office soon so we can get you and/or your organization on the parade list. At the conclusion of the parade everyone is invited to gather at the Town Hall steps to honor our special guests, veterans from D-Day in World War II, other WW II veterans, the Korean War, World War II Cadet Nurses, as well as veterans from our more recent wars and other conflicts, who have proudly served our country. There will be a reading of selections from The Declaration of Independence and a ceremonial raising of our Nation's flag. Our featured speaker will be Mr. Bernard Marie, a retired international businessman who was hiding with his mother in his family home near the beaches of Normandy the morning of the D Day Invasion.

Following the reading at the Town Hall steps we encourage you to follow our pipers on a very brief walk across our recently renovated "bridge to everywhere" and join us at the Masonic Amphitheatre for a short concert by the Highlands Pipes and Drums. A picnic lunch will be served on the grounds of the Masonic Amphitheatre. There will be an informal art exhibit and sale during the afternoon throughout the Amphitheatre Park, where folks can enjoy a relaxing afternoon browsing local artists' creations, and strolling through the new park-like setting, adjacent to Smith Creek. There will be a cardboard village for children to enjoy painting all afternoon. Rumor has it that there will also be a Bluegrass band entertaining us on the Amphitheatre stage.

At 6 PM, the grounds of the C & O Heritage Center open to the public, free of charge, for an evening of informal fun, food and festivities with our neighbors and friends. To kick off the evening, the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Band will present an outdoor concert near the restored Freight Depot. The miniature

train at the Heritage Center will also be available to ride, for a small fee. The evening's entertainment includes a patriotic cantata by the 50 member Celebration Chorale. This outstanding presentation will include a Retreat of the Colors. More musical entertainment continues following the retreat.

Finally, at that magical hour, as darkness settles in Clifton Forge, we will once again be thrilled by the spectacle of a brilliant fireworks display set against the backdrop of our majestic mountains here in the Alleghany Highlands -What a fitting close to our day-long celebration.

The Stars and Stripes Committee hopes you will set aside this special holiday to join us in a day-long celebration of our Nation's 238<sup>th</sup> birthday. Join in our parade – Join in a very unique small town celebration! Please call the Main Street Office for more information at 540 862-2000, visit our website [www.cfmainstreet.com](http://www.cfmainstreet.com) or visit our Facebook page. See you in Clifton Forge July 4<sup>th</sup>.