



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Sixth Annual Talons Out Honor Ride set for Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (July 2, 2018) – As our longest running fundraiser, Sunday July 8, will be an exciting day for the Talons Out Honor Ride. Now in its sixth year, minor changes to the ride have it poised to be the biggest ride in the event's history.

Last years ride included over 100 motorcycles and over 160 riders. This year, the ride will start at a later time, to allow riders from further away to attend. Registration begins at 9:30 am with Kick Stands Up at 11:00 am. Historically riders have traveled through Fort Custer National Cemetery and stopped at the VA Medical Center for a brief visit. Because of the growing support there is need to tweak the event. The riders will again travel through Fort Custer in silent recognition of our heroes who have been laid to rest but they will also be stopping at the Ceremonial Flag pole for a wreath laying ceremony including full honor guard, the singing of the national anthem, the playing of taps and a flag folding ceremony.

We invite the members of the communities we will be traveling through to come out and greet our riders as they ride through each town. We also invite them to bring out a picture of the hero in their life so the riders can salute them too. We suggest being in place at least 15 minutes prior to our scheduled arrival. We have attached our route and below are the expected times of arrival.

Schoolcraft (14 <sup>th</sup> St)	11:00 am	Battle Creek (Dickman Rd)	1:35 pm
Vicksburg (W. W Ave)	11: 10 am	Athens – (Capital Ave)	Arrival 1:40 departure 2:30
Scotts (36 <sup>th</sup> St)	11:25 am	Colon (E. State St)	2:50 pm
Galesburg (W. Battle Creek)	11:35 am	Centreville (Main St)	3:05 pm
Augusta (Augusta Dr)	11:40 am	Three Rivers (Main St)	3:45 pm
Fort Custer National Cemetery	12:20 pm	Marcellus (Main St)	4:10 pm Main St

Following the ride, participants will have dinner at the Marcellus V.F.W. They will also have the opportunity to be a part of our Facebook Live where they can share who they rode to honor during the days events.

To date, 920 veterans have flown with Talons Out Honor Flight on one last mission.

WWII Veterans – 618	Vietnam Veterans – 13
Korean War Veterans – 258	Original Rosies – 31

**About Talons Out Honor Flight:** Talons Out Honor Flight is a volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization honoring World War II, Korean War veterans and terminally ill veterans from all conflicts with an all-expense paid Washington, D.C. trip to visit their memorial. Talons Out is the Southwest Michigan hub of the national Honor Flight Network. Learn more at <http://talonsouthonorflight.com>

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