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Events to honor area veterans

By Brad Meyer

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Area military veterans, supporters and their families have a trio of activities scheduled over the next week to honor the service of those who wore the uniform of their country.

On Sept. 9, the Rotary Club of Lake Conroe will dedicate the Honor Flight Eagle statue at 9 a.m. at the entrance to Memory Park, adjacent to the Charles B. Stewart West Branch Library at 202 Bessie Price Owen Drive in Montgomery.

The 11-foot-tall statue, donated by Jack McClanahan, pays tribute to the more than 500 area veterans who participated in the Lone Star Honor Flight program that transported World War II veterans to Washington, D.C.



Director Carolyn Wong, left, works with the cast of "No Time For Sergeants" Tuesday evening for Stage Right's special performance of the play for area veterans at the Crighton Theatre Sunday.

"We have plaques on the statue listing the name of every veteran that participated in Honor Flight," McClanahan said. "We're encouraging local veterans to come out and be recognized when Rotary dedicates the statue in their honor."

For additional information about the dedication ceremony, call (936) 448-4053.

On Saturday, LSHF organizers will present videos from Honor Flights 4 and 5 from 1-4 p.m. at the Ark Church, located at 450 Humble Tank Road in Conroe. Participants from any of the LSHF programs are encouraged to attend.

"We are very pleased to have Houston businessman and icon Jim McIngvale attend the event and be a featured speaker and presenter," McClanahan said of the Gallery Furniture founder. "He's an incredibly dynamic individual who will help make this event even more memorable."

The event is free and includes a social hour with complimentary refreshments.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Stage Right of Texas will present a special production of "No Time For Sergeants" at the Crighton Theatre, located at 234 N. Main St. in downtown Conroe. The event is free for all veterans from every branch of service and era.

"It's a great play with a lot of humor that veterans from every era can relate to," said Carolyn Wong, founder of Stage Right and director of the classic comedy. "It's a lot like the movie that made Andy Griffith a star – but a lot of people think the stage play is even funnier."

In addition to honoring area veterans, Stage Right is collecting supplies for military personnel serving overseas. Audience members are encouraged to bring toiletries, personal care items and nonperishable protein items – such as individually wrapped protein bars – to the theater, where they will be collected and shipped to servicemen and women.

"We're proud to honor our local vets, but we want to lend a helping hand to our current soldiers,

sailors and Marines as well," Wong said.

Admission to the play is free for veterans, but advance reservations are essential. Other guests can purchase tickets at the normal price of \$17. Call (936) 441-SHOW for tickets and information.

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