

Giant Hero Day Parade And Rally Saturday



county to fly the flag, display yellow ribbons and turn on their car headlights Saturday as part of the Hero Day observance.

Many municipalities will be marching en masse in the parades, some riding on fire engines and floats.

Those attending are asked to bring to the rally signs imprinted with the names of family and friends in Operation Desert Storm. The entire event will be videotaped and a copy sent to every military unit that includes a member from Delaware County. Perhaps some of

the troops will be able to see their names included.

People who want to attend the rally, but are unable to parade should get to Media by car no later than 11 a.m. Parking will be available in parking garages there. There will be no parking at the municipal lot at Olive St.

According to Media Borough Council Member Bob McMahon, a Vietnam veteran, council will pass a resolution declaring Saturday National Hero Day at a special meeting tomorrow (Thursday) night. Other local governments are expected to do the same.

McMahon said also that, in keeping with tradition, a representative of Media Borough will welcome the crowd at the rally.

The borough is hoping to provide a flatbed truck for the parade for the families of borough service men and women participating in Operation Desert Storm, McMahon

said. In conjunction with Hero Day, Widener University students will be collecting paperback books to be sent to the troops and canned food will be collected for families of troops who may be in need. There will be collection sites for both at the malls and near the

courthouse. The Red Cross will also conduct a blood drive in Media that day.

A number of nationally known personalities have been invited and several are expected to attend, according to Weldon.

(Ed: See additional information on street parking limitations.)

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down Baltimore Pike, north on Providence Road, left on State to Olive to the courthouse.

Weldon, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a staunch supporter of the war, has asked everyone in the

Recent news stories add poignance to the tragedies of war. Consider the single episode in which the United States incurred the greatest number of casualties — when a Scud warhead hit a barracks in a rear area. It turns out that the missile might have been intercepted, and those lives saved, except for a glitch in the targeting software of a Patriot missile battery.

Then there were the deaths from that most oxymoronic of military terms, "friendly fire." (We liked the general who set the record straight on this score, explaining, "after a bullet leaves a gun, it doesn't have any friends.")

The nation, indeed, needs to make a special effort today to remember all of those who died in the war, because there is such a danger

that their sacrifice will be forgotten in the general sense of relief over the low casualty count.

And no one should forget the incredible role of good luck in that low casualty count — it could easily have been higher. What if the Iraqis had used the chemical ordnance they did have on the battlefield, including the Scud warheads that would have released clouds of nerve gas? What if a few more Patriot missiles had misfired?

Those who feared the consequences of war, and favored a more cautious approach, were not discredited by the fortunate outcome of the military action. Gen. Colin Powell's reported early opposition to initiating combat would certainly be understandable. No one comprehends the human costs of war better than a soldier.