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- Special to the Daily Leader

"That" Liberal Band, under the direction of Lance Burnett, has been invited to represent Kansas on Monday, May 25, in the National Memorial Parade in Washington D.C.

The invitation for this year's parade came from the Honorable Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor of the District of Columbia, the American Veterans Center and Music Celebrations International, and Southwest Kansas Music Educators Association President Shawn Martin.

The three-hour parade passes alongside the National Mall on Constitution Avenue between Seventh and 17th Streets. The National Memorial Parade salutes American Veterans from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in honor of those who died in defense of the country.

Liberal High School band staff and members consider this a great honor to be part of this event which will be viewed by 200,000 spectators and shown worldwide on the Armed Forces Television Network.

Charla Lewis, Jordan Northerns and Grant Mathews are assisting "That"

Liberal Band with musical preparation that started in earnest this past week at LHS.

The parade program has a Civil War theme and features the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Taps," "Dixie," "The Battle Cry of Freedom"

and a new piece called "The Glory."

The LHS band will march 125 members, and there will be a total traveling party of 150 including staff and chaperons.

The group will fill three chartered buses out of Tempe, Ariz., and will drive the 30 hours taking minimal breaks, departing Liberal on May 21.

While the group is in the nation's capitol, they will attend church at the National Cathedral, tour the monuments by moonlight, listen to the Navy Band and attend the Memorial Concert on the steps of the capitol, hosted by the National Symphony Orchestra.

Students and staff will have the opportunity to tour the Smithsonian Institution, visit the Arlington National Cemetery, and have a fun day at the Wet 'n' Wild Amusement Park near Williamsburg, Va.

"A big thank you goes out from the band department, to the LHS Band Boosters for their fund-raising efforts in support of this trip,"

Burnett said. "President John Nondorf has scheduled monthly fund- raising events, and for the month of February, the Knights of Columbus are hosting bingo on Sunday nights with a percentage of the profits going to the LHS band."

Also, starting Tuesday, LHS band students will be selling fish fry tickets for the Tuesday, March 10, an annual event.

In an effort to ensure the continuing success of the LHS band's major fund-raiser and fund the Washington, D.C. parade performance, a few changes have been made to the menu.

It will include a choice of battered fish or deep fried chicken, beans, corn on the cob, fresh cole slaw, cheesy potatoes and hush puppies. Prices for the tickets are \$8.50 for adults and \$6 for children ages 5-12.

Funds from the first fish fry went to assist with "That" Liberal Band's Rose Parade performance back in 1981.

"The LHS band is again asking the Liberal community to support them and their project to honor the nation's war dead, teach youngsters patriotism, taste some great fish and show the nation some of what our wonderful city has to offer," Burnett said.

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