

# HHAD's Pre-Announcement for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hoosier Heroes Appreciation Weekend

(Formally, the Mayors' Veterans Appreciation Day)  
*A Weekend to Show Our Respect & Appreciation to our:  
Hoosier Veterans, Military & First Responders*

Hoosier Heroes Appreciation Day will be Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2025

Hoosier Heroes Faith & Family Day will be Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2025

Plan to be at White River State Park in Downtown Indy on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2025



**Come Out and show Your Support our Veterans, Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, Hospitals & EMS staff**

Program & Main Events	Other Proposed Events	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>A program celebrating and honoring our Hoosier Heroes</b> (Guest Speakers, Awards, Acknowledgments, Accomplishments, etc.)</li> <li>2) <b>Indianapolis Municipal Band</b> will be playing several patriotic songs throughout the Program.</li> <li>3) A program to remember our <b>POW/MIA Day</b> – Rolling Thunder will share their Program.</li> <li>4) We will acknowledge our <b>Fallen Hoosier Heroes, Veterans, Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, Hospitals &amp; EMS groups.</b></li> <li>5) We will acknowledge <b>those lost to Suicide.</b></li> <li>6) <b>A Catered Lunch</b> for our Hoosier Heroes and their Families after the Program.</li> <li>7) <b>Indianapolis Indians</b> game in the evening starting at 6:30 PM at <u><a href="#">Victory Field w/ Fireworks.</a></u></li> <li>8) <b>Indianapolis Zoo</b> for our Hoosier Heroes and their Families</li> <li>9) <b>Concert – Feature Band</b> will play Saturday night</li> <li>10) <b>Concert - Multiple Bands</b> will play throughout the day on Saturday <u><a href="#">in the Celebration Plaza.</a></u></li> <li>11) <b>Custom Car Show on the old Washington St Bridge</b></li> <li>12) <b>Job / Career Fair - WorkOne</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Hundreds of Vendors &amp; Exhibitors</b> from Service providers that offer goods, services, programs, benefits, counseling, etc., to our Hoosier Heroes.</li> <li>2) <b>All types of entertainment games and events for the kids</b> (bounce houses, sports, balloon rides)</li> <li>3) <b>HHAD Faith &amp; Family Day</b> - praise &amp; worship</li> <li>4) <b>Petting Zoo</b> - A Farm Animal group with various farm animals they can pet for the kids.</li> <li>5) <b>Other State Fair-type food vendors</b> with food and drinks for sale will also be available.</li> <li>6) <b>Workshops</b> on learning what others are doing to help our Hoosier Heroes.</li> <li>7) <b>Sports Team Members</b> - signing autographs and taking pictures.</li> <li>8) <b>Sports Cheerleaders &amp; Mascots</b> (football, basketball, baseball, hockey, soccer) for the kids.</li> <li>9) Competitive activities</li> <li>10) Mobile Vet Van, Blood Mobile, BMV Mobile, Mobile Vaccination and Smilemobile units</li> <li>11) <b>Drawings for Great Door Prizes</b> all-day</li> <li>12) <b>Food Drive</b> for Indy's Homeless (Drop non-perishable food items off at the gate).</li> </ol>	<p>We plan to produce this Major Event honoring our Veterans, Military, &amp; First Responders, and we need your help pulling it all together.</p> <p>We're looking for 1) Volunteers, 2) Vendors / Exhibitors, 3) Sponsors, and 4) Planning Committee Members.</p> <p>We plan to raise enough money from our Sponsors to offer at least 2,000 of our Hoosier Heroes a Free lunch and significant discounts to the Indy Zoo &amp; Indians game.</p> <p>Access to the Program, Concert, Vendors / Exhibitors, &amp; Job Fair is FREE to all.</p> <p>If you are interested in helping us with this project, please visit <u><a href="http://www.Veterans.ooo">www.Veterans.ooo</a></u> and click on the "Sign-Up" link at the top of the page.</p>

For additional information on our Event, please visit [www.HoosierHeroes.net](http://www.HoosierHeroes.net) or contact:

**Don Hawkins | 317-632-0500 | [Hawkins@Veterans.ooo](mailto:Hawkins@Veterans.ooo)**

**I will be on a Zoom call every Wednesday at 7:00 PM (starting 20Oct24) to answer any of your questions.**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4041895202?pwd=TTlwSFBpeDJma0dORFBybUZmTGMOZz09> (password "Don")

(Revised 28May24 at 1325)

## Who Should Attend Hoosier Heroes Appreciation Day?

**Indiana's Hoosier Heroes will be our Special Guests, but our Event is open to the General Public.**

The Hoosier Heroes Program in the TCU Amphitheater with the Indianapolis Municipal Band will be FREE from 10:30 to 12:30 PM.

Concert on the Celebration Plaza from 12:30 to 6:00 PM is FREE.

The Job Fair with 80 to 90 Employers "Ready to Hire" is FREE to all attending HHAD.

The lunch after the Program will be FREE to the first 2,000 Hoosier Heroes that register.

Several food trucks selling fair-type food & drinks will be available from 10:AM to 6:PM.



Visit [www.WhiteRiverStatePark.org](http://www.WhiteRiverStatePark.org)

There's not much we can do to pay back these men and women who risk it all for us, nor do they expect it. Still, honoring them by showing our appreciation for them on this special day is an honest and meaningful gesture to those who serve.

## Why a Veterans, Military, and First Responders Appreciation Day is important

1. It is time to remind us of their sacrifices to their country, community, and families.
2. It gives us a day to acknowledge their commitment to our State, & our Communities and bask in their pride & heroism.
3. Most of our Veterans, Military, and First Responders face high risks virtually every time they step out of the comfort of their own homes and are likely some of America's most dangerous careers.
4. Veterans, Military, and our First responders put other lives ahead of their own. **HHAD** is a day they can share the joy with their teammates and take a day to feel appreciated along with their families who also make sacrifices to support their hero.
5. **And last but not least, I believe it's the least we can do to show them the respect and appreciation they deserve.**

## Hoosier Heroes Appreciation Day



Hoosier Heroes Appreciation Day (HHAD) will celebrate Indiana's Veterans, Military, and First Responders (such as Law Enforcement, Firefighters, Hospitals & EMS personnel). We believe the men and women who work for these organizations are the true Heroes in our Hoosier State, especially in the last few years. They should be acknowledged and celebrated to show them how much we appreciate their dedication to our community.

Founded & Organized by:



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