

## NEWS RELEASE – SIKESTON TOURISM & HOSPITALITY LUNCHEON

SIKESTON, MO

February 28, 2024

The Sikeston American Legion Post 114 will host their 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Cotton Carnival this year. This 80-year tradition has become part of the culture in the community that provides good wholesome family entertainment and boasts one of the largest parades in the Show Me State. This festival bringing visitors from around the state and region to Sikeston every September.

The Legion as it is locally called, hosts several other events throughout the year including the annual Poker Run and Barbecue Contest, all to raise to money for veterans' organizations and causes. These events not only support the community, but also brings visitors to Sikeston.

Each year the Legion organizes and hosts the Memorial Day and Veterans Day services and assists with the placement of flags on veterans' graves.

The Legion supports numerous community organizations including the YMCA of Southeast Missouri, Sikeston Department of Public Safety, and the American Legion Baseball League. Through the years the Legion has made countless donations to many charitable organizations.

The Legion has been a major supporter of all projects funded for Veterans Park since the inception of the park in 1992. They are a major donor to the Missouri State Veterans Ceremony in Bloomfield.

American Legion Post 114 is an asset to the community and instrumental in bringing new visitors to Sikeston. On Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Sikeston Regional Chamber and Convention & Visitors Bureau will recognize American Legion Post 114 for their outstanding contributions to tourism at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tourism & Hospitality Luncheon at Lambert's Café.

The Sikeston Tourism & Hospitality Award of Excellence is presented annually by the Sikeston Convention & Visitors Bureau to any business, individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to the tourism and hospitality industry in the Sikeston area. The Lambert's Family Hospitality Traveling Trophy will also be presented to American Legion Post 114 from the previous year's winner, Beggs Family Farm.

The Sikeston Chamber and Convention & Visitors Bureau Tourism & Hospitality Luncheon will be held at 12pm at Lambert's Café on March 7<sup>th</sup> and is open to Chamber members and anyone who would like to help recognize American Legion Post 114.

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