

Call goes out for Brig farewell party

The recent column about the Lee Brigadiers disbanding stirred more response than any column I've written in recent years.

From all over the state and country, I've received e-mail messages from former Brig members, and even former Sterling Stars, dismayed over the loss of a Baytown tradition.

Plans are in motion now for a farewell celebration during the weekend of Sept. 14 for all former Lee Brigadiers.

They will be honored at halftime during the first Ganders home game of the season at Stallworth Stadium.

A brunch will be held the following morning at Lee High School starting at 10.

A video of Brigadier activities from throughout the years will be shown, as well as a display of photos and memorabilia.

Anyone who would like to contribute items for this display may take them to Eva Joe Epperson in the superintendent's office at the administration building, 1415 Market St.

Items should be clearly marked with the former Brigadier's name, address and phone number so they can be returned following the event.

Marty Haynes is heading a planning committee for the celebration, searching for names and addresses of former Brigadiers to mail them invitations.

Names and addresses may



Back in the Day

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be mailed to Haynes at 2213 Mockingbird, Baytown, TX 77520, or e-mailed to Julie Jannise at jajannise@goosecreek.cisd.esc4.net.

People who would like to help plan the event or submit an address may contact Haynes at (281) 422-4223.

The committee hopes to have all addresses in by July 26 in order to mail invitations the first week of August.

Come on, everybody. Let's work together to get the word out.

It's sad enough that the Lee Brigadiers are disbanding, but a poor response to the farewell celebration would compound the loss.

Call or e-mail or send letters to all the former Brig members you know.

We're talking about the end of a 76-year tradition and it does deserve our attention and respect.

The drum and bugle corps was the very heartbeat of halftime shows from Elms Field to Memorial Stadium to Stallworth Stadium.

I was in the band at Lee (during the era of Memorial Stadium) and, believe me, the band members were among

the staunchest fans of the Brigadiers.

We knew what it took to produce their awesome half-time shows — practice, practice, practice.

Director of the Brigadiers when I was in high school was Carmel Norton. Like the football coach, Dan Stallworth, and the band director, J.C. Burkett, Carmel Norton was an icon on the REL campus.

She and Alvera Griffin, business manager of the corps, had a lasting, positive influence on the lives of Brigadiers.

That's one of the things I've been reading in my e-mail messages.

Over the years, membership in the corps numbered from 200 to 300, and there must have been another hundred girls waiting in the wings, hoping to make it in the next tryout.

It was honor to be a Lee Brigadier.

Well, enough said about the past. That was then. This is now and let's concentrate now on that very special weekend of Sept. 14.

For more information, call the Goose Creek public information office at (281) 420-4813 or visit the district Web site at:

www.goosecreek.cisd.esc4.net

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