



Little Bull Falls LogJam 2016

Script for the Opening Ceremonies' Salute to Veterans

Cast

MC Jeff Thelan

Thomas Jefferson (in costume)	Al Erickson, former Mosinee Mayor
Abraham Lincoln	Kevin Hermening
Theodore Roosevelt	Adam Lindquist, Professional Impersonator
Franklin Roosevelt	Jerry Petrowski, Wisconsin State Senator
John Kennedy	Doug Mielke, President, Mosinee City Council
George W. Bush	Julie Lassa, Wisconsin State Senator
Soloist	Lynn Meyer

Firing Squads

American Revolution	Encampment Volunteers	Muzzle Loaders
Gettysburg Address	Pelham's Battery	Civil War Cannon
Teddy Roosevelt	Volunteers	Winchester-like Lever Actions
FDR Infamy Speech	American Legion/VFW	M-1 Era Rifles
Kennedy Inaugural	American Legion/VFW	M-1 Era Rifles
Bush 9-11 Address	Combined	All Guns

Guest of Honor

Will Lehner Battle of Pearl Harbor Veteran

Other

Never Forgotten Honor Flight Mike Thompson

Script

Color Guards march in from behind the crowd and position themselves to the left side of the stage as seen by the audience, followed by bagpiper playing "The Hills of Tyrol". Firing squads are already in position on the opposite side.

MC: Good Morning and welcome to the opening ceremonies of the 2016 Little Bull Falls LogJam.

I'm Jeff Thelen from WSAW-DTV in Wausau, and I've been honored by being

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asked to MC this Salute to our Veterans.

Today we will honor our heroes, the veterans of the United States Military. It is to these men and women that we owe a debt that can never be repaid, for we owe them our most precious possession, our freedom.

All veterans here today please hear this: We know that you do not consider yourself heroes, but... We do.

This coming December will be the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

We are extremely honored today to have with us a Veteran of the Battle of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Will Lehner (LAY-ner) of Stevens Point.

(pause for applause)

Today's celebration will consist of six readings, each about two minutes long, of abbreviated versions of great American speeches and documents. Each of these selections has a special meaning to those that have defended our country by putting on the uniform. Each reading will then be followed by a firearms salute by squads using weapons appropriate to the period of the reading.

In a quote often mistakenly attributed to Thomas Jefferson, Irish lawyer and politician John Curran said, "The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance".

Forty one days ago we celebrated the 240th birthday of the United States. Let us remember today that the U.S. Veteran is the one that has kept that vigil for those 240 years.

MC It is not commonly known that the National Anthem has four verses. The fourth verse is especially appropriate to the veteran.

Please rise, face the flag, and join Lynn Meyer in the singing of our National Anthem. We will sing the first and fourth verses.

If you are a civilian, please remove your head covering, and cover your heart. If you are a veteran or active service, please salute the flag. The words are in your program.

Lynn Meyer Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
The National Anthem Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
1st and 4th verses And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave

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O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

MC: On July 4th 1776, representatives of the thirteen original colonies signed the document that would state in unambiguous terms, the common idea upon which our country is firmly rooted.

That idea is one of self rule, where the government exists for the benefit of the individual, not the other way around. Self rule means the citizen's allegiance is not to a king or other ruler but to a common belief upon which a system of laws is created. Before those ideas were codified into the United States Constitution, they were stated in a document called The Declaration of Independence. It was largely written by Thomas Jefferson, the man who would become the nation's third president.

Al Erickson: When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident:

That all men are created equal;
that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights;
that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;
that, to secure these rights,
governments are instituted among men,
deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies solemnly publish and declare,
That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be,
FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES;
that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown and that all

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political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Muzzle
Loader Firing Squad: Single volley of muzzle loaders

MC: That common belief continued for 85 years until issues of states' rights, fueled by the controversy over slavery, split the nation in two. On November 19, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the site of one of the most costly battles of the Civil War for both sides, President Abraham Lincoln delivered one of the most succinct yet meaningful a speeches in American History...

Kevin Hermening: Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
(Bliss Copy)

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us --

that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion --

that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain --

that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom --

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and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

MC: This next firearm salute will be conducted by "Pelham's Battery", a local Civil War re-enactment group. The original Pelham's Battery was an actual artillery unit of the Confederacy.

While it may seem strange to have a Confederate Unit saluting a Union cause, it was in 1958 that the Congress of the United States passed a resolution that formally recognized all veterans of the Confederate States of America military as veterans of the United States.

Pelham's
Battery Single cannon firing

MC: The outcome of the Civil War not only preserved the Union, but defined the United States as a single entity, with individual states subject to federal law.

As the nation healed, it grew west, across the great planes and the Rocky Mountains.

At the dawn of the twentieth century, that exploratory spirit was personified in the youngest man to ever hold the office of the presidency, Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt professed the belief that a strong military is necessary to preserve the peace, to "Walk softly, but carry a big stick."

Adam
Lindquist: The time has arrived for this great nation of ours to step out upon the world stage. So let the spotlight fall on us. I am reminded today of the words of George Washington, who said "To be prepared for war is the most effectual means to promote peace".

We ask for a great Navy, a great army, a great marines, because no national life is worth having if we are not willing to defend it. All the great Masterful races have been fighting races. And to lose the fighting virtues is to lose the right to stand at all. There are higher things in life than the soft enjoyment of material comforts. And it is to strife, and the readiness for strife than a man and a nation, must win greatness.

So let the world know we are here, and willing to pour out our blood, our treasure, our tears and that America is ready and need be desirous of battle.

If we forget that in the last resort we can only secure peace by being ready and willing to fight for it, we may someday have bitter cause to realize that a rich nation which is slothful, timid, or unwieldy is an easy prey for any people which still retains those most valuable of all qualities, the soldierly virtues.

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No nation should ever wage war wantonly, but no nation should ever avoid it at the cost of the loss of national honor.

A nation should never fight unless forced to; but it should always be ready to fight. The mere fact that it is ready will generally spare it the necessity of fighting.

Firing Squad Volley of 30-30 lever actions, Winchester, Henry, or equivalent

MC: Then there was a World War that was thought to end all wars, and a depression unlike any the country had ever seen.

Peace came. The country found itself recovering from that Great Depression as world tensions grew. On December 7th 1941, many in the central Wisconsin area were relaxing in front of the radio on a Sunday afternoon... when the following was heard...

Recorded Audio We interrupt his program to bring you a special news bulletin. The Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor Hawaii by air, President Roosevelt has just announced. The attack also was made on all naval and military activities on the principle island of Oahu...

MC: The following morning, President Franklin Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress...

Jerry Petrowski Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American

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people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounded determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God.

American
Legion/VFW Volley of M-1 Carbines or equivalent
etc.

MC: The end of the second great World War should have brought an era of peace and good will, but instead was followed five years later by a conflict in Korea and then by a Cold War. President John Kennedy clearly stated United States commitments in his Inaugural Address.

Doug Mielke We observe today not a victory of party but a celebration of freedom--symbolizing an end as well as a beginning--signifying renewal as well as change. For I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three quarters ago.

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe--the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution.

Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans--born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage--and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any

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price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it--and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

American
Legion/VFW
etc. Volley of M -1 Carbines or equivalent

MC: This last reading will be followed by a volley of fire from the combined firing squads of all units present, to honor all veterans of all our wars, and peacetimes.

Then Taps will be played.

We will then observe a moment of silence to remember those veterans who have made the supreme sacrifice, or have otherwise passed on.

MC: Although the threat of nuclear annihilation was less of a concern after the end of The Cold War, the world was hardly a place at peace. That reality was forced upon America and all the world the morning of September 11th, 2001. That evening, President George W. Bush addressed the nation...

Julie
Lassa Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes or in their offices: secretaries, business men and women, military and federal workers, moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror. The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge -- huge structures collapsing have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong.

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A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining. Today, our nation saw evil -- the very worst of human nature -- and we responded with the best of America. With the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a Power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me.

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night. And God bless America.

Combined Firing Squads Combined volley by all squads

Lone Bugler Taps

MC (*Observe moment of silence*)

Bagpiper (*fades in*) Amazing Grace

MC: April 27th, 2010, was a red letter day for the Veterans in the central and northern counties in Wisconsin. On that day the first Never Forgotten Honor Flight flew 103 World War II Veterans to Washington D.C. to see the memorials that stand in their honor.

Next month the 25th Honor Flight will takeoff with a similar number of Vietnam War era Veterans.

Planning and logistics for such a flight let alone 25 of them are of course, immense. We are honored to have with us today the President of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Mike Thompson, who will, after this brief history,

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introduce our Guest of Honor.

MC
(Lehner
Introduction)

As was said at the beginning of this ceremony, 2016 is the 75th anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor. There is no more fitting way to end this veterans' celebration, than with a few words from our Guest of Honor, Will Lehner, a survivor and veteran of the Battle of Pearl Harbor.

On December 7th 1941, at approximately 6:00am Hawaiian Time, 20 year old, Will Lehner was serving as a fireman second class on the destroyer *U.S.S. Ward*, patrolling the entrance to Pearl Harbor.

The *Ward* was notified by another ship of a Japanese mini-submarine trailing a repair ship, the *Antares*, that was entering the harbor.

The *Ward* spotted the sub's conning tower, sped up, and began firing. They scored a direct hit, the submarine keeled over, leaked oil and sunk.

At 6:53, more than an hour before the Japanese attack began, the *Ward* sent a message, "We have attacked, fired upon, and dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea area." The message was received, but the reaction was disappointing. The kill was doubted. It was not until 2002 that a University of Hawaii submarine located the Japanese sub confirming the *Ward's* action.

In 2005, when Lehner was 84, he was offered the opportunity to get in that research submarine to look at the mini-sub that he and the crew of the *Ward* sank. Lehner jumped at the opportunity and went underwater. 1200 feet below surface he saw the 78 foot Japanese vessel that they sunk 64 years earlier.

Until the discovery of this submarine, the crew of the *Ward*, had to endure the criticism of the skeptics. Finally, Lehner and the others, were able to achieve vindication after 61 years.

History will now record the *U.S.S. Ward* as the ship that truly did fire the first shots of World War II for America.

Now, Never Forgotten Honor Fight Co-Founder and President, Mike Thompson.

Mike Thompson *Thompson Remarks*

Ladies and gentlemen, Will Lehner, United States Navy, Retired.

Will Lehner *Lehner Remarks*

Mike Thompson *Thompson will present Lehner with his official Never Forgotten Honor Flight Portrait*

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MC Will is not the only Guest of Honor here today. The true Guests are you the Veterans of our military. While you are regular people, men and women, many of you moms and dads, let it never be forgotten that when you were needed you answered the call.

Would all Veterans please rise.

On behalf of all here today, Thank You for our Freedom!

(wait for applause)

MC Before we end I would like to introduce our performers and guests:

The Declaration of Independence was read by former Mosinee Mayor, President of the Friends of LogJam, and U.S. Army veteran Al Erickson.

The Gettysburg Address was given by United States Marine Veteran, and Iranian hostage for 444 days, Kevin Hermening.

Teddy Roosevelt was portrayed by Adam Lindquist. He will be here at LogJam in character all weekend.

FDR's "Date of Infamy Speech" was delivered by Wisconsin State Senator Jerry Petrowski.

John Kennedy's Inaugural address was given by Doug Mielke, President of the Mosinee City Council.

Wisconsin State Senator Julie Lassa delivered George Bush's 9-11 Address to the Nation.

...and of course our Guest of Honor, Pearl Harbor Veteran Will Lehner.

MC We'd like to thank the numerous Color Guards and Firing Squads with us today.

The Mosinee VFW

The Peplin VFW

The LogJam Encampment Black Powder Group

Pelham's Battery

Lynn Meyer who led us in the National Anthem.

We'd also like to thank Mike Thompson of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight.

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MC Please take the time to sign the giant "Thank You for Our Freedom Card" in the Veterans Exhibit put on by the Mosinee Area Historical Society in the Gazebo. This card will be on placed on display at the next four Never Forgotten Honor Flight banquets in September and October of this year and April and May of 2017.

On that card will be placed a group photo of the people that signed it. We are about to take that photograph. Please look up at the drone that is about to hover and take our picture. Please wave to the camera!

(wait for all clear from drone pilot)

The speakers and guests have agreed to stay awhile if you would like to take pictures.

For those of you with young children here today, please take the time in the next few days to discuss with them what we heard here today. How, as a society, our most precious possession is our freedom... but that freedom isn't free.

The texts of today's presentations can be found at the LogJam website: logjamfestival.org

The retiring of the colors will mark the end of this ceremony. Please join Lynn Meyer in the singing of the first and third verses of America the Beautiful. Again, the third verse is especially appropriate to our veterans. The words are in your program.

Lynn Meyer O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
America the Beautiful For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
1st and 3rd America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
verses And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

MC Thank You and may God Bless you, may God Bless America... and may God Bless our Veterans!

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