

PRESSRELEASE

Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219)873-1400 • Fax: (219)873-1515

www.emichigancity.com

For Immediate Release

Date: June 16, 2004

44th Pageant of Drums

Michigan City, IN (June 16, 2004) – The Michigan City Summer Festival will present a Drum Corps International (DCI) Competition, “Pageant of Drums,” at Ames Field on Saturday, July 3, 2004.

Pageant of Drums Chairman Mike Pease said, “This event just gets more exciting every year. We have world champion drum and bugle corps performing in Michigan City every summer, and they come here from all over the United States and Canada. This is an event no one should miss.”

In competition will be: the 5-time World Champion **Cavaliers** of Rosemont, IL; 1996 World Champion **Phantom Regiment** of Rockford, IL; the **Troopers** of Casper, WY, winners of 11 international championships and known as “America’s Corps”; Canada’s #1 drum corps, the **Kiwanis Cavaliers** of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada; **Colts** of Dubuque, IA, known as “Iowa’s Corps”; 2003 Midwest Champion in Division II **Memphis Sound** of Memphis, TN; 2003 Division III Bronze Medal winner **Marion Cadets** of Marion, OH; **Lake Erie Regiment** of Erie, PA; and a memorable exhibition by “the world’s largest drum & bugle corps” – the **Royal-Airs Alumni Corps** of Chicago, IL. The Royal-Airs Alumni Corps features 30 horns, 30 percussion and 40 color guards; all members of this corps are between 22 and 80 years of age.

“There will be a special appearance by the **Michigan City High School Wolfpack Marching Band**,” Pease said. “They will perform “O Canada” and “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Drum Corps International (DCI) is a nonprofit youth organization serving junior drum and bugle corps around the globe. From modest beginnings in 1972, DCI has developed into a powerful youth activity with artistic and organizational influence on the world’s drum and bugle corps, marching bands, and related activities. Celebrating nearly three decades of service, DCI has amassed an illustrious history. Twenty-eight World Championships in 16 cities have provided entertainment to more than half a

million people in stadiums and to millions more through the PBS telecast. Regional, focus, sponsored, and sanctioned shows have brought the drum corps experience to several million more in hundreds of towns and cities throughout North America.

But DCI says its crowning achievement is the unparalleled experiences it offers to thousands of youth between the ages of 14 and 22 -- life-enhancing, character-building experiences, including the pure joy of learning and playing music, the exhilaration of athletic achievement, and the thrill of performing before thousands of cheering fans time and again.

In 2004, DCI corps will again travel throughout North America, starting in early June and culminating in August at the World Championships.

DCI emerged from a uniquely American activity that had its beginnings after World War I, when veterans formed corps to perform in parades as a way to celebrate patriotism. Many of these units, playing traditional no-valve bugles and rudimentary drums, were attached to the VFW, American Legion, Catholic Youth Organizations, and Police Athletic Leagues. The groups soon developed into legitimate musical units, and in the '60s became more and more competitive. Through the '60s and '70s, corps evolved from quasi-military and urban groups to show biz and suburban performers. They began to integrate jazz, classical, pop, and Broadway music and dance. Instrumentation evolved to include a wide range of bell-front, rotor, and multi-valve brass horns and sophisticated drums and percussive instruments, including keyboards.

Pease said, "Reserved tickets for one of the most exciting events of the Summer Festival are available from Greene's BP Amoco at 1204 Franklin Street in Michigan City. Tickets are \$20 for center stadium seats and \$17 for all other seats, and we accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover. These tickets never last long. This is always a sold out event."

####

Contact: Joe Doyle

Phone: 219/874-3630

Fax: 219/873-1540