



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2021

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What: Memorial Processional and Service for Lecile Harris

When: Saturday, February 13, 2021
10:00 a.m. Memorial Processional
11:00 a.m. Memorial Service & Mural Unveiling

Where: Mississippi State Fairgrounds
Processional around the Fairgrounds
Memorial Service in the Coliseum

Dixie National Celebrates the Life of Longtime Rodeo Performer Lecile Harris with Memorial Processional at State Fairgrounds Saturday

JACKSON, Miss. –The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce will host a memorial processional for the late Lecile Harris, professional rodeo clown and longtime performer at the Dixie National Rodeo, on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The processional around the State Fairgrounds will include family members of Lecile Harris, special dignitaries, mounted horse groups and the famous Dixie National Wagon Train.

“I want to invite the public out Saturday as we celebrate the life of Lecile Harris with the memorial processional around the Fairgrounds. Seating will be available for spectators. Following the processional, everyone is invited to move into the Coliseum for a memorial service and mural unveiling to continue the celebration of Lecile’s life.” said Commissioner Gipson. “As we kicked-off the Dixie National Rodeo Thursday night, it was apparent how big a part Lecile played in the rodeo and how deeply he is missed by everyone, including those involved with the rodeo and the spectators that enjoyed watching him perform for decades.”

The procession will begin on Mississippi Street on the State Fairgrounds, pass through the viewing area at Gate 7, turn onto Greymont Street through Gate 7, continue onto Madison Street, turn right onto Jefferson Street and turn right back onto Mississippi Street through Gate 14 onto the Fairgrounds. For those

wishing to view the processional, seating will be available on the State Fairgrounds near Gate 7 on Mississippi Street.

Following the processional, Commissioner Gipson and the Harper Morgan Rodeo Company will hold a brief service and mural unveiling of Lecile Harris in the Mississippi Coliseum at 11:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend. The extensive mural featuring Lecile Harris is located inside the front lobby on the north side of the Mississippi Coliseum where visitors can see and learn about the renowned rodeo clown.

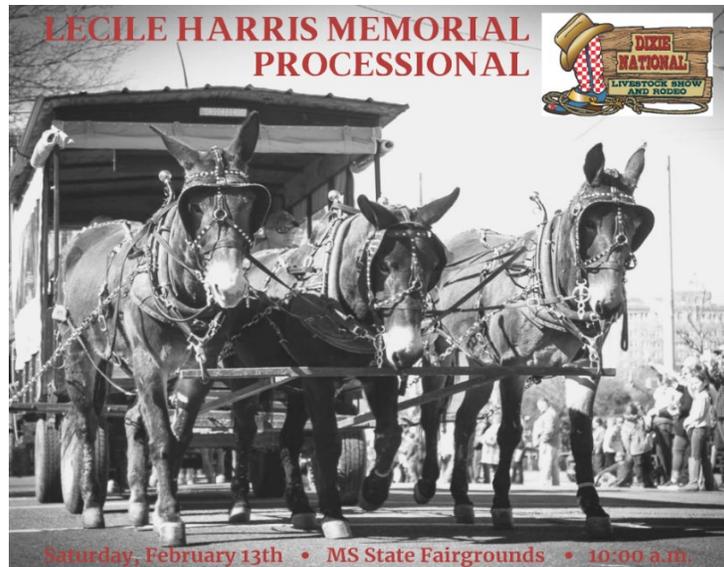
The annual Dixie National Rodeo runs through Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at the Mississippi Coliseum. The event produced by Harper Morgan Rodeo Company features bull riding, barrel racing, team roping, steer wrestling, bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding and tie down roping. Musical artists performing at upcoming rodeo competitions include Parker McCollum, Moe Bandy, John Conlee, Sawyer Brown, Justin Moore and Riley Green. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com.

Also, for the first time, the Mississippi State Fairgrounds is hosting the Dixie National Rodeo “Cowboy Up” blood drive, to assist with the shortage of blood supplies caused by the pandemic. The blood drive will be held Friday, February 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Mississippi Farmers Market parking lot. All CDC guidelines will be in place for protection of the donors, staff and blood supply. All donors will receive the first annual Dixie National Rodeo blood drive t-shirt.

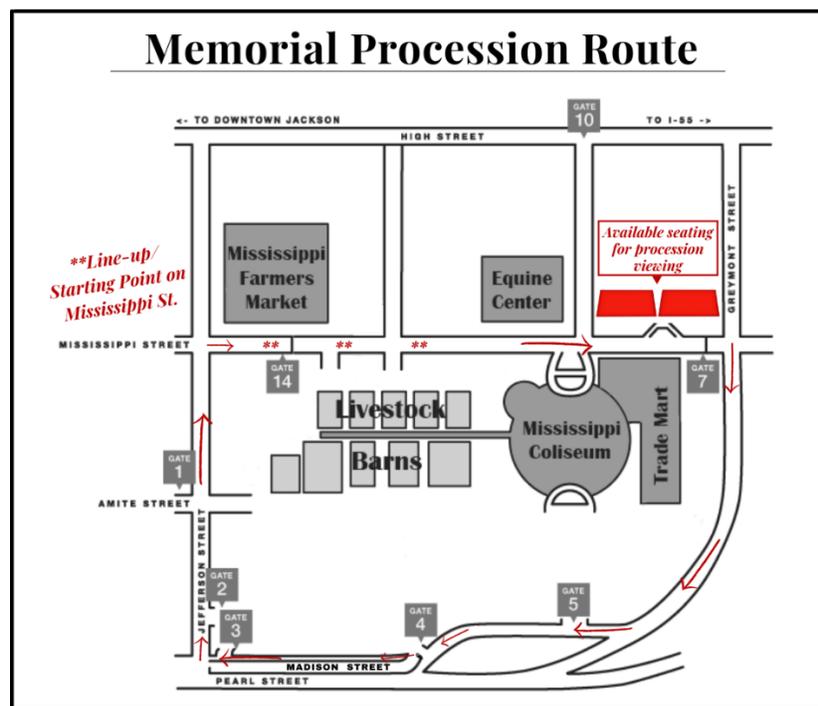
For more information on the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, visit www.dixienational.org, download the mobile app, “like” the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo on Facebook or call 601-961-4000.

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Photo and map attached.



The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) will host a memorial procession for the late Lecile Harris, professional rodeo clown and longtime performer at the Dixie National Rodeo, on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. A memorial service and mural unveiling will take place in the Coliseum at 11:00 a.m.



The procession will begin on Mississippi Street on the State Fairgrounds, pass through the viewing area, turn onto Greymont Street through Gate 7, continue onto Madison Street, turn right onto Jefferson Street and turn right back onto Mississippi Street through Gate 14 onto the Fairgrounds. For those wishing to view the procession, seating will be available on the State Fairgrounds near Gate 7 on Mississippi Street. The Memorial Processional will include family members of Lecile Harris, special dignitaries, mounted horse groups and the famous Dixie National Wagon Train.