

LaMettry's

Collision Centers

A QUALITY COMPANY

Save
the
Date

Tuesday, May 19

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



LaMettry's Blaine
2101 108TH Lane NE
Blaine, MN 55449



Recycled Rides Veteran Vehicle Donation

Please join us for a special event as we celebrate an upcoming veteran vehicle donation and recognize the valued vendor partners who helped make it possible.

Live performance by **Local Band Ladies and the Tramps**


Special thanks to our contributing partners:



AAA Auto Insurance
for supplying the
vehicle



Maplewood Toyota
and **Inver Grove
Heights Toyota** for
donated parts



AAA Auto Parts for
donated parts



Enterprise for their
donation and for
providing lunch



Honoring Thomas Simota

Thomas Simota has dedicated more than 30 years of service to the State of Minnesota and to the nation through his work in the Minnesota Army National Guard and in public safety communications. A Minnesota native, Thomas built a career defined by service, leadership, and a deep commitment to protecting others.

Service to Country

Thomas enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard in 1995 and has served in a wide range of communications, operations, and leadership roles throughout his military career. His deployments have included support of **Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia**, **Operation Iraqi Freedom in Kuwait**, and most recently **Task Force Spartan in Kuwait**, where he served as Division Safety Officer supporting more than **5,000 Soldiers**.

Service to Minnesota

In addition to his military service, Thomas has played a critical role in emergency communications across Minnesota. He has supported major real-world operations including **COVID-19 response efforts**, the **2020 Minneapolis civil unrest**, **Super Bowl LII**, **presidential inaugurations**, and **numerous statewide emergency response initiatives**.

Today, he serves as **Communications Officer** (Senior Planner) and Interim State IPAWS Program Manager for the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, helping ensure reliable communication during disasters and planned events across all 87 counties in Minnesota.

Leadership & Recognition

Thomas's service extends far beyond his professional responsibilities. He is a past **Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars**, a member of the **American Legion**, and an active parishioner in his local church community.

Throughout his career, he has been recognized with numerous honors, including the **Meritorious Service Medal**, multiple **Army Commendation Medals**, the **Iraq Campaign Medal**, and the **Humanitarian Service Medal**.

Vehicle Presentation

Like many veterans, Thomas has continued to put others first even while facing personal challenges. Following his most recent deployment, his family experienced significant financial strain due to medical issues, unexpected home repairs, and transportation setbacks.

A reliable vehicle will make a meaningful difference for Thomas and his family by helping ease daily stress and supporting the practical demands of work, family, and continued service.