

Partial list of patriotic displays

## **Museum Exhibits Feature Armed Forces Tribute**

As part of the Ashe County 2008 Armed Forces Tribute, The Museum of Ashe County History will feature special exhibits focusing on Ashe County's members of the Armed Forces. Beginning on Saturday, 23 August, the Museum will present a one-day-only display of military vehicles at Ashe County Park and an exhibit of military equipment, photographs and memorabilia at the Temporary Museum hall located across from the 1904 Courthouse in Jefferson.

The exhibit in the Temporary Museum will remain up through November 11, Veterans Day. In addition to uniforms, field gear, letters and period newspapers, the Museum exhibit includes a display of photographs sent to the "Skyland Post" by servicemen, their families and military Public Relations during World War Two. You will probably see someone you know as a venerable elder, but he will be 19 again.

### **The Treasure Box**

Gene Plott was having his newly purchased house in Winston-Salem painted. His painter was in the attic space doing some work, when he found a box that looked like it had been there for a long time. The painter notified Gene, and turned over the box to him. He examined the contents, and found them to be World War II items; photos, memorabilia, and various official documents. The name on the papers was Banner Linville Phillips. Gene found that he was a previous owner of the house but had no idea how to contact him. But, on the documents was reference to Mr. Phillips having been from Ashe County.

Gene made several calls to Ashe County, and was eventually referred to the Museum of Ashe County History. The volunteer workers at the museum, went to investigating and found Mr. Phillips in an Assisted Living Center in Winston-Salem. Gene contacted the Power of Attorney for Mr. Phillips, and they met. He found that Mr. Phillips was with the Army Air Force, and served in Europe during WWII.

Telling Mr. Phillips of how the Ashe County Museum had been such a help on this matter. Mr. Phillips agreed to turn over the entire box. Before sending it, Gene very properly cataloged each item, and packed it delicately.

The Museum now displays these items, and will have them and others displayed at the Ashe County Armed Forces Tribute. Don Long of the Museum said that he would like to have more items from the Korean, and Vietnam Wars. They can be given to the Museum on a temporary basis, so the owner will get them back when they want.

For more information about your Museum of Ashe County History and its programs, including the restoration of the 1904 Courthouse, call the Museum office at 336-846-1904 or visit the Temporary Museum across from the 1904 Courthouse in Jefferson.



Korean War Army jeeps displayed at The Museum of Ashe County History in 2007.



Some of the military equipment, uniforms and Ashe County servicemen photographs shown in 2007.

## **Mount Paddy Church Features Face Painting**

The Youth Group from Mount Paddy Church and Director Jason Hunt with help from church member Joyce Borchert will offer patriotic face painting for kids and adults at the Tribute. Full of patriotism and enthusiasm, they will offer the face painting in exchange for donations.

## **Leviton employees support with Photography**

Susan Banks is the impetus behind the large number of Leviton employees supporting the Tribute this year. Facing plant closings and layoffs, this group is volunteering in many areas of responsibility from logistics to fundraising. Arrangements have been made to offer the volunteer efforts of local photographer Ed Reeves for those wanting to memorialize their presence at the Tribute in 2008. You can have your photograph made with anyone at the event with your pledge of a minimum of a \$5 contribution. Envelopes will be available as order forms, with the printed 4x6 photos mailed to you after the Tribute.

## **Ashe Healthy Carolinians & ASU's Rick Beasley Supports ACAFT**

The Act Against Cancer Coalition is sponsoring a Men's Health Booth at the event. In addition to information about men's health, they will also be offering blood sugar screenings from 9am until 11am. While not trying to slight the many women that have served for our country, we know that they understand that men take better care of their cars than they do themselves and this is a wonderful opportunity to reach a lot of men. Special guest is Rick Beasley, the Assistant Athletic Director from ASU and possibly some of the players. Rick will address the event participants at 9:15am and will stay at the Men's Health tent for conversation and questions afterwards. Please make a point to come by. For more information you can contact Nancy Kautz at the Ashe Healthy Carolinians Office at 846-0781.

## **North Carolina hero featured in book honoring American service members**

*Project raises money for wounded veterans*

Ashe County, NC — Writers from across the country have joined forces to craft a book to honor the troops, including a local Marine, who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sgt. Mark Adams, of Cary, NC has been chosen as one of the 52 American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who are featured in *Faces of Freedom*. The book profiles one fallen service member from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Nationally acclaimed authors and writers, military veterans and print and broadcast journalists have donated their time to make *Faces of Freedom* a reality.

All proceeds from the sales go to Fisher House ([www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)) and Wounded Warrior Project ([www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)), two organizations that aid wounded veterans and their families.

Television news anchor, and newly sworn-in American citizen, Rebecca Pepin of Bristol, VA/TN is the project's founder. She will be on hand to sign copies of *Faces of Freedom* during Ashe County's Armed Forces Tribute on August 23, 2008. Books are \$30.

**Of the book, Gen. Colin Powell says:**

**"The stories in *Faces of Freedom* are true stories — stories of service, sacrifice, pride and love. The stories will remind you that America has been blessed with greatness in every generation and no generation has shown greater valor than our current generation of heroes in Iraq and Afghanistan. Read and be inspired."**

**Sen. John McCain says:**

**"Throughout American history, ordinary citizens have been called to do the extraordinary, and serve a cause greater than their own self-interest. It is important to demonstrate the pride we have for those good men and women serving our nation everyday at great personal cost. And that pride is evident here, in *Faces of Freedom*."**

**American Legion national commander Paul A. Morin says:**

**"We must never forget the sacrifices made by our young men and women serving in our Armed Forces during this Global War on Terror. We are reminded of those sacrifices through these heart-warming profiles of America's best ... our heroes. It is the obligation of every American to remember these sacrifices and to also take care of their wounded comrades."**

## **Local Artist Bat Hilliard offers Caricatures**

Bat Hilliard, creator of the thermometer affixed to the wall outside the Tribute office that indicate funds raised so far is offering his talents to the Tribute this year! For a minimum donation of \$10 per person, Bat will sketch your smiling face into a life-like caricature of art.

## **Stephen Shoemaker Pictorial Postmark a First for Ashe County**



**Ashe County Armed Forces  
Tribute Station  
August 23, 2008  
West Jefferson, NC 28694**

Days after the 2007 Armed Forces Tribute last year, Drew Martin, West Jefferson Postmaster, mentioned the idea of a commemorative pictorial postmark for the 2008 Tribute. With the goal of the Tribute to involve every aspect of the community in this day of appreciation, the idea was a hit. The US Postal Service offers pictorial postmarks as a community service to commemorate local events in communities nationwide, but the process must be completed by the local organizers. Once created, the local USPS sets up a temporary mail station on the date of the event.

Local artist and veteran Stephen Shoemaker agreed to create an original work of art depicting this Tribute to Veterans, active duty military and reservists. Based on the World War I image of a 'doughboy' with a bayonet featured against a backdrop of Old Glory with a flurry of campaign ribbons, this panned postmark captures the flavor of the citizen soldier who volunteers to serve when called, then returns from battle to 'pick up his plow' and return to everyday life. Shoemaker's father, Joseph Clark Brown, served in the 30<sup>th</sup> Artillery Division in France during World War I, thus his use of the 30<sup>th</sup> Division emblem on the helmet on the doughboy.

When asked why a soldier rather than 'service member', Shoemaker explained: "They are all soldiers. Doesn't matter if they are Army or Navy or Air Force, cooks or doctors or pilots. First and foremost, they are soldiers."

Being a veteran made this project very personal for Stephen as he sought to portray the heart and soul of an Ashe County that has always stepped forward when needed by their neighbors across the dirt road or across the ocean, much as he stepped forward to draw the first ever pictorial postmark in Ashe County. This spirit is alive and well as displayed by the service of many men and women who serve not a war, but an ideal of loyalty to the tenets of freedom, duty, and of service to mankind.

Postmaster Drew Martin and USPS employee Dan Suggs, father of an active National Guard soldier who has earned two Purple Hearts in Iraq, will have a booth set up at the Tribute for the mailing of letters and packages as well as the keepsake cancellations. Available only for 30 days, this collector's postmark will also be available on an envelope that has a silk cachet of the Purple Heart at the event on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at Ashe County Park. Mail order requests must be postmarked no later than 30 days following the requested pictorial postmark date of August 23, 2008.

### **Piece Makers Quilt Guild and Community Members Quilt Stockings for Military**

If you know someone who is serving in the military, the Piece Makers Quilt Guild wants to honor them with a very special gift in December: Original Hand-Crafted Quilted Stockings, created for each individual Service Member.

Linda Harris and Mary Rodgers have spearheaded the community-wide effort to design and quilt stockings for anyone who is now serving, including those who are deployed, in training, based in the US, and National Guard. It was agreed that the only requirement for all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Reservists and National Guardsmen to be added to the list is that they have ties to someone in Ashe County by family or friendship. The Service Member does not have to be deployed to be added to the list. Starting with the list from last year's military biographies that were turned in for the Wall of Honor, names are still being solicited to be added to the current list. To date, almost 75 stockings are already completed and ready to go.

The stockings will be on display at the Armed Forces Tribute in Ashe Park for voting for First Prize, with voting continuing at the Quilt Fair September 26-27 at Jefferson Station. Individuals attending each of the events will be encouraged to vote for their favorite stocking by placing money in containers by each stocking, with \$1 equal to one vote. The stockings will be separated into two categories for display and voting, with one for Quilt Guild Members and one for anyone else in the community who quilts a stocking. The winning stocking in both categories will receive two hand-crafted Blue Ribbons,

one for the Quilter and one to be mailed to the Service Member with the stocking. The money collected will be used to collectively purchase items for stuffing all the stockings and mailing in mid-November to each Service Member. Donations are also being accepted.

If you would like to submit names for stockings, please stop by the display and provide the name, address, email and phone number (if one is available) to the quilters. Please include your contact information in case there are questions.

### **Hot Air Balloon Courtesy of Norman Cheek**

Ashe County native Norman Cheek is legendary in his support of the North Carolina National Guard. Once featured in Time magazine for his efforts and awarded the Minuteman as a token of appreciation, Norman is bringing the hot air balloon from Toyota of Boone. He will also be bringing a large American Flag, and will speak to our units along with West Jefferson mayor Dale Hudler. Jefferson mayor Dana Tugman is a World War II veteran who will also be present. Lansing will be represented by Fire Department Chief Everett Adams and America Legion Commander Kermit Wilcox.

### **Ashe Youth Connection 4-H Mentoring Program Create Cards for the Military**

Debbie Smith of the Ashe Youth Connection announced the *Ashe County Armed Forces Tribute* is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our veterans and active troops representing each of the military branches in the United States of America. 4-H Ashe Youth Connection, a Governor's One-on-One Volunteer Program, will be providing gift cards, hand made or pre-made, for guests who would like to send greetings and "well wishes" to our active military personnel who are serving abroad. This is a special opportunity to convey your thoughts of thanks, encouragement, support and appreciation. It is an honor to recognize the commitment and sacrifice these men and women make on behalf of our nation. The 4-H Ashe Youth Connection will have a booth and table filled with craft items suitable for making hand made cards. Each guest will have the option of making their own card from our supplies or can choose a card that has been hand made by one of our AYC volunteer youth and adult mentors. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850.

### **John Birch Society to have Booth**

Local John Birch Society members, led by Carol Phillips, will have a patriotic display.

### **Local Churches to Honor Veterans, Active Duty and Reserve Military "In God We Trust"**

Bernadette Zimmerman of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Jefferson has recruited local churches to join in honoring their members who are veterans or active duty military, including the National Guard and Reserves. Churches participating in this Tribute to the Military on Sunday, August 24, include The Baptist Association, Friendship Baptist, Jefferson United Methodist, Bethany Methodist, First Baptist, Friendly Grove Baptist, Midway Baptist, and Mt Jefferson Presbyterian in

West Jefferson, Mission Home Baptist Church, Calvary Methodist Church and Zion Methodist in Fleetwood, Glendale Springs Presbyterian, Grassy Creek Methodist, Long Branch Baptist and Sturgills Baptist in Lansing, Rich Hill Union Baptist in Crumpler, Mountain View Baptist in Creston, Warrentonville Methodist, Lansing Methodist and Clifton Methodist.

On Saturday August 23, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church will have a 5:00pm mass at the church in Jefferson, followed by a reception. Those who have attended the Tribute and the community are invited to attend and continue our show of support for the military and veterans.

## **Washington Rifles Civil War Re-Enactors**

### **1st Virginia Cavalry Regimental Information**

The 1st Virginia Cavalry was organized from prewar militia companies, the 1st Virginia Cavalry consisted initially of 12 companies (A - M), and completed organization July 16, 1861. One of the most famous Confederate cavalry regiments, the 1st Virginia was led by such intrepid leaders as J.E.B. Stuart, "Fitz" Lee, and "Grumble" Jones. The regiment fought in over two hundred battles and skirmishes. From its ranks sprang such renowned cavalry leaders as John Singleton Mosby, Ridgely Brown and Gustavus W. Dorsey. Despite heavy casualties, the 1st maintained its high morale and elan to the bitter end. Escaping at Appomattox Court House the regiment marched on to Lynchburg before the unit disbanded.

Captain Monte Baker leads the Washington Rifles in camps, battles and travels throughout the year.