



For Immediate Release

Melissa Rivera
Rubberneck Media
245 Person Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
919.956.9400, ext. 211
mriviera@rubberneckmedia.com

31 Day Salute Month Long Military Celebration Days Away

What: The third annual *31 Day Salute*, formally *31 Days of Glory*, a month-long celebration of performances, ceremonies, exhibitions and activities honoring soldiers, vets and their families kicks off on Sunday, May 1. The community believes its military heroes deserve more than just one day in May, Memorial Day, to be recognized for their service and has dedicated the entire month to doing so. This year, new groups have enlisted to participate in *31 Day Salute* by hosting exciting events while other groups have returned to offer crowd favorites. New events are continually being added, so be sure to keep checking the website, www.31daysalute.com, for additional details.

Beginning Thursday, April 28 and lasting through Sunday, May 15 is the Fort Bragg Fair, which will feature unlimited carnival rides and live entertainment, all included in one low admission price, with military and Department of Defense civilian employees receiving a discount. Appearing at the fair this year is the Sea Lion Splash, a great family show where parents and children can greet sea lions and enjoy a live performance.

At the Fayetteville Area Transportation & Local History Museum, history buffs can re-live the history of the American Civil War for the entire month through the exhibit Cumberland County Goes to War. This exhibit will observe the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War and Fayetteville/Cumberland County's role during the war.

A Red, White, and Blueberry scavenger hunt will take place at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden throughout May. Visitors can take part in this free activity to identify plant species associated with red, white or blueberries. Members of the military will also receive discounted admission to the Garden for the entire month.

Fascinate-U Children's Museum will offer half price admission to all military families and free admission to families of deployed soldiers throughout the month. Children will also be able to make Blue Star flags.

On Saturday, May 7 Campbellton Landing will be the site of the Fayetteville Duck Derby where thousands of rubber ducks will float down the Cape Fear River to see which will cross the finish line first. As a salute to the military, the first duck will be dropped by a soldier.

The Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center will host Fayetteville's own Dr. Michael C. Hodges on Tuesday, May 10 as he talks about his book, *A Doctor Looks at War*, which

chronicles his experience in an Army combat support hospital during the initial year of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Who: *31 Day Salute* reflects the collaboration of various community organizations dedicated to supporting the military. Recognized by Peter Greenberg in *Newsmax* magazine as one of America's most patriotic communities and by *TIME* magazine as America's most pro-military town, Fayetteville/Cumberland County is the ideal place to honor the military.

When and Where:

Fort Bragg Fair - Fort Bragg MWR

Thursday, April 28 - Sunday, May 15 at the Fort Bragg Fairgrounds

Gates Open Monday-Friday: 5:00 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday: 1:00 p.m.

Cumberland County Goes to War - Fayetteville Area Transportation & Local History Museum

Sunday, May 1 - Tuesday, May 31

Hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Red, White, and Blueberry - Cape Fear Botanical Garden

Sunday, May 1 - Tuesday, May 31

Hours are Mondays-Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sundays 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fascinate-U Children's Museum

Sunday, May 1 - Tuesday, May 31

Hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sundays: 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fayetteville Duck Derby - Fayetteville Urban Ministry

Saturday, May 7, 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Author Visit: Dr. Michael C. Hodges - Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.

Additional Details: With various patriotic and military attractions and events taking place throughout the month, *31 Day Salute* offers lively and fun activities for all ages. For more information and a complete schedule of events, please visit www.31daysalute.com.

For additional information, please contact Melissa Rivera at 919-956-9400 ext. 211.