



For Immediate Release

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31 Days of Glory Events Honor Both Past and Present Military Heroes
Featured exhibit Hugh's Crate offers insight into a soldier's life

Fayetteville, NC – April 2010 – After Lt. Hugh William Wellons was killed in Vietnam in 1966, the Army shipped home his crate of personal and military effects that the family left relatively undisturbed for more than 40 years. Hugh's sister, Caroline Parsons, who still lives in the Cumberland County residence where her and Hugh's mother and grandmother were born, allowed the staff at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex to examine the crate and its contents. The *Hugh's Crate* exhibit, in its second year at the museum and a part of the month-long event series *31 Days of Glory*, offers a look at how we remember those that have fallen while serving their country.

In addition to the crate, the exhibit features various items from Hugh's family, friends and fellow soldiers. There is a poem written by his sister and letters from soldiers thanking the family for a memorial fund to assist with a chapel in Vietnam that Hugh helped establish. Also included is a framed commendation that accompanied the Silver Star Hugh was posthumously awarded following his death while on an operation in Quang Ngai Province. Though they are not included, Hugh also posthumously received the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his actions during that engagement. The exhibit will be on display throughout the month and admission is free.

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex will also present the special event, *Armed Forces Living History Day* on May 15, Armed Forces Day, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The free event, which pays tribute to our nation's military, will feature living history presentations, educational programs and fun for the whole family. On the complex grounds, re-enactors will be stationed at various tour encampments representing different time periods from the colonial period to the 20th century, including such wars as the War of 1812, Spanish American War, Civil War, World War I and World War II. Artillery and small arms demonstrations will also take place throughout the day, as well as various children's activities.

With various patriotic and military attractions and events taking place throughout the month, *31 Days of Glory* offers lively and fun activities for all ages. Please visit www.31daysofglory.com for a listing of all events, such as:

- Come out for the official *31 Days of Glory* kick-off at Fascinate-U Children's Museum on Saturday, May 1 from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The event will feature guest speaker Dana Canedy, author of *A Journal for Jordan*, singing group

Stars and Stripes, and a 6'x12' patriotic mural for children to color. Museum admission is free until 2:00 p.m.

- Images of Duty: A Photographic View of the Vietnam War Through the Lens of Local Servicemen. The Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum will honor local servicemen and women in the Vietnam War with a photographic essay and military equipment display. On the second floor of the main museum building a collection of photographs taken by local veterans during their tours of duty in Vietnam will be on display. Included in the exhibit will also be a collection of military equipment items. Both exhibits are free.
- Listen to the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra perform Mussorgsky's great masterpiece, *Pictures at an Exhibition*, at Reeves Auditorium on the campus of Methodist University on Saturday, May 1 at 8:00 p.m. Brilliantly orchestrated by French composer Maurice Ravel, this concert will be coupled with other exciting pieces showcasing the vast talent of the FSO.
- Enjoy the Cape Fear Botanical Garden's *May Day Festival* on Sunday, May 2 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Highlights include pony rides, a jumping castle, carriage rides and a milk carton boat flotilla. Visitors can make and take home crafts such as May flower baskets, headbands, rain sticks, water wheels, decorative picture cards and a patriotic mobile. Activities include Maypole dances, bubble-making, face-painting by Dogwood Queens and more!

31 Days of Glory reflects the collaboration of 20 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 and memorialize those who have put their lives on the line to protect our everyday freedoms.

To view event photos, visit

<http://rubberneckmedia.com/clients/Fayetteville/31DaysGlory.pdf>.

About the FACVB:

The Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, not-for-profit organization responsible for positioning Fayetteville/Cumberland County as a destination for conventions, sporting events and individual travel. For additional information, visit www.visitfayettevillenc.com or call 1-800-255-8217. Fayetteville/Cumberland County is the America's first military sanctuary. Through the *Amy's Army* and other volunteer groups, our citizens and businesses are dedicated to watching over those who watch over us.

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