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Fayetteville Begins Month-long Celebration Honoring Soldiers Past and Present

31 Days of Glory kicks off with New York Times Bestselling author Dana Canedy's motivational speech and book signing and a coin ceremony for children of fallen soldiers

Fayetteville, NC – May 13, 2010 – The series of events opened Saturday, May 1, with *A Journal for Jordan* author Dana Canedy visiting and connecting with civilians, soldiers and their families at Fascinate-U Children's Museum. Later in the day, Ms. Canedy also spoke with military families on base at Fort Bragg's North Post PX. Canedy read passages from the book, which is filled with life lessons that her fiancé, Army First Sergeant Charles Monroe King, who lost his life in Iraq, wanted to instill in his son in the event he did not return from war.

Canedy began her speech by thanking military men and women and their families for their service, as well as the Fayetteville/Cumberland County community for being "such a proud supporter of our men and women in uniform." A common theme throughout her speech was discussing how to adequately thank soldiers and their families. Some key quotes include:

"If I could write something that would give people insight into the kinds of sacrifices that military families make everyday in this country, then I would be honored to do that and that's why I [wrote the book]. You know, soldiers who serve don't do it because books are going to be written about them, they don't do it for the glory, they don't do it so people can ask for their autographs, they certainly don't do it for the money – they do it for the love of country, they do it for the reasons that unite us, not the reasons that divide us."

"I've tried through this book to give people who don't know soldiers, who don't know military families, a glimpse into the world of a soldier. There's no way to sufficiently thank them. There's no way that a handshake feels like enough. But in doing this I sort of felt like maybe I could say thank you to soldiers, maybe I could connect with people who don't know soldiers."

On Sunday, May 2, *31 Days of Glory* honored children of fallen soldiers at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM) during a special ceremony where Mayor Anthony Chavonne presented each child with a special coin recognizing them for their courage. Also during the event, winners of the museum's month-long exhibit, *Celebrating & Honoring Military Heroes*, were announced. The display features art from children of

military families in Cumberland County schools. To view the names and art of the winners, [click here](#).

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:

- *Thanks to Veterans*. On Saturday, May 15, the Airborne & Special Operations Museum will hold a one-hour ceremony honoring veterans of World War II. Free admission.
- *Author Visit: Dr. John Chandler Griffin*. Griffin will speak about his book, *Lt. Bill Farrow: Doolittle Raider*, at the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center on Friday, May 28 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Following his presentation, Griffin will answer questions and sign books. Free admission.
- *Downtown Alliance Glory Days Celebration*. On Memorial Day, the Fayetteville Downtown Alliance will host the *10th Annual Glory Days Downtown Memorial Day Celebration*. Festivities will include a pancake breakfast, a formal ceremony at Freedom Memorial Park, a car show, bake sale, live music, the “Patriot’s Crit” bicycle races, a Kids Corner, vintage military equipment and gear exhibits, carriage rides and more. Free admission.
- *Memorial Day Ceremony*. The *Memorial Day Ceremony* will pay tribute to veterans past and present with a guest speaker and events including posting of the colors, a toast to the flag, wreath presentations to monuments, singing of the National Anthem and “America the Beautiful,” bagpipes playing “Amazing Grace,” and rendering of honors. Free admission.

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 [click here](#).

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 *Army's Army* and other volunteer groups, our citizens and businesses are dedicated to watching over those who watch over us.

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