



The pillar of support for military morale, welfare, and recreation professionals.

New York Times Bestselling Author Dana Canedy Kicks Off 31 Days of Glory in Fayetteville/Cumberland County on May 1

The annual month-long military celebration expands to include special events such as a coin ceremony for Children of Fallen Soldiers

Fayetteville, NC – March 23, 2010 – The series of events opens with A Journal for Jordan author Ms. Canedy giving a motivational speech, signing copies of the book, and visiting and connecting with civilians and soldiers and their families at two locations, Fascinate-U Children’s Museum and Fort Bragg’s North Post PX. The book is filled with life lessons that Canedy’s husband, Army First Sergeant Charles Monroe King, wanted to instill in his son in the event he did not return from war. The Pulitzer-Prize winning editor will share her heart-wrenching story with those who truly understand what it’s like to lose a loved one.

31 Days of Glory will honor children of fallen soldiers at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM) during a special ceremony where Mayor Anthony Chavonne will present 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, will be announced. The display features art from children of military families in Cumberland County Schools.

“Our community is committed to watching over those who watch over us and 31 Days of Glory is just another way for us to honor and recognize the military for bravely protecting our everyday freedoms,” says John Meroski, president and CEO of the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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:

*Hugh’s Crate, a memorial display honoring Lt. Hugh William Wellons, who was killed in Vietnam in 1966. The exhibit features personal effects he left for his family, and will be shown all month at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex.

*Visit the Cameo Art House Theatre each Saturday in May for the Military Film Festival featuring such films as Paths of Glory, Dr. Strangelove, The Great Dictator, and Hurt Locker.

*Join the Fayetteville Downtown Alliance at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum on Saturday, May 15 for the dedication ceremony of its annual Field of Honor. Here, hundreds of American flags will be placed on the museum's parade grounds and will remain until June 29.

*Visitors can take a hands-on approach to honoring soldiers by making a Blue Star Banner at the Fascinate-U Children's Museum on Saturday, May 8. The banners are traditionally placed in windows of homes of active duty service members during times of war.

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.

<http://www.imcea.com/servicesnews.html>