

Operation Marriage

By Rebekah Sanderlin



31 Days of Glory

We are smack-dab in the middle of Fayetteville's annual 31 Days of Glory Celebration, which honors all service members past and present, but there are still lots of events yet to occur. Each year my favorite part is seeing the Field of Honor, which will be dedicated tomorrow, May 15. If you weren't here to see the Field of Honor last year, it is truly a sight to behold. Individuals purchase the flags to honor someone living or dead and then the flags are erected in the area around the Airborne & Special Operations Museum and the future Veteran's Park. It is always breathtaking to see so many flags blowing in the breeze. The flags will stay up until May 31.

Other upcoming 31 Days of Glory events include:

Fort Bragg Fair until May 16. The Fair is AWESOME this year. We took the kids last week and had a blast. Be sure to check out the sea lion show while you're there and run back and forth across the fairgrounds to ride all the rides so that you won't feel guilty for eating deep-fried Oreo cookies. :-)

Fascinate-U Children's Museum – Free or reduced admission all month for military families. Free admission for a family with a deployed member and half-price admission for any military family.

Hugh's Crate – Through May 31. After Lt. Hugh Wellons was killed in Vietnam in 1966, the army shipped home his crate of personal and military effects. The family left the crate relatively undisturbed for more than 40 years. The story has become a stirring reminder of the meaning of Memorial Day. The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex will display Lt. Wellons' crate and much of its contents in a special lobby exhibit through May 31. Free admission.

Cape Fear Studios – 10% discount for all military family members through May 31.

Dock's at the Capitol – 15% off all appetizers & desserts and 1/2 price bowling with military ID through May 31.

Images of Duty: A Photographic View of the Vietnam War Through the Lens of Local Servicemen – Through May 31. 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. For more information call (910) 433-1457 or 433-1458.

Sandhills Music Center in Hope Mills – 10% discount to all active duty military with ID.

Military Film Festival at the Cameo Theatre – Each Saturday in May, two of the following films will be shown at 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.: *Paths of Glory*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *The Great Dictator* and *Hurt Locker*. For ticket prices, contact the Cameo Theatre. May 1 - 29.

Airborne & Special Operations Museum, Thanks to Veterans – May 15 – One hour ceremony honoring veterans of World War II, featuring guest speakers, and free cake/refreshments in the garden area. Free admission.

Fayetteville After Five Kick-off, Festival Park –May 20 – Grab your friends, a lawn chair or blanket and relax on the Festival Park lawn while taking in some FREE entertainment and sipping on a refreshing beverage of choice! (No coolers or outside food is allowed.) Enjoy a show-stopping performance by The Tams. The Festival Park venue will include art activities and face painting for children by Fayetteville Museum of Art's education department, food vendors, information booths, and adult beverages.

Swampdogs Opening Night – May 27 –

Magnet Schedule Giveaway to the first 500 fans courtesy of Freeman, Barrett and Johnson CPA's PA & Healy Wholesale. Gates open at 6pm and first pitch is at 7:05pm at J.P. Riddle Stadium, located at 2823 Legion Road. All current and prior U.S. military members in attendance will be recognized prior to the start of the game.

General admission \$6
with military discount \$5
Ages 4 and under are free

Headquarters Library Author Visit, Dr. Chandler Griffin – May 28 – Dr. John Chandler Griffin will speak about his book, *Lt. Bill Farrow – Doolittle Raider* on Friday, May 28 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at [Headquarters Library](#), 300 Maiden Lane. Following his presentation, he will answer questions and sign books. Refreshments will be served courtesy of Systel. About the Author: Dr. Griffin served with 82nd Airborne Division. About the Book: (from the Publisher's Website) Piloting the Bat Out of Hell, Lt. Bill Farrow volunteered for the dangerous American secret mission designed to boost morale during the darkest days of World War II. Dubbed 'Doolittle Raiders' after Gen. James H. Doolittle, the commander of the Tokyo raid, Farrow's crew set out to bring the war to the Japanese homeland by bombing a military target in Nagoya, Japan. Once the Mitsubishi aircraft factory was destroyed, their haven was to be Chuchow Air Field, 1,500 miles away in China. They never made it. Running out of fuel, Farrow had to bail out over Japan. Farrow was captured, tortured, and executed after a six-month imprisonment. Free admission.

Swampdogs Spectacular Fireworks Night – May 29 –

Magnet Schedule Giveaway to the first 500 fans courtesy of Freeman, Barrett and Johnson CPA's PA & Healy Wholesale. Gates open at 6pm and first pitch is at 7:05pm at J.P. Riddle Stadium, located at 2823 Legion Road. All current and prior U.S. military members in attendance will be recognized prior to the start of the game. General admission \$6

with military discount \$5
Ages 4 and under are free

Glory Days Downtown Memorial Day Celebration – May 30 & 31 – On May 30-31, the Fayetteville Downtown Alliance will host the *10th Annual Glory Days Downtown Memorial Day Celebration*. Our family oriented activities will include arts, crafts, and food vendors. We begin on the 30th, with an 8 p.m. Sunday Movie in the Park. On Memorial Day, festivities will include a Pancake Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., \$5 per plate), 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.

Movie & Picnic in the Park – May 30 – Free admission, 7:30 p.m.

NC Cyclists Criterium – May 31 – NC State cyclists Criterium Championship, Patriots Criterium on Hay Street. Spectators encouraged.

Walk a Mile in their Boots – May 31 – Walk a Mile In their boots - walk from Festival Park to Freedom Memorial Park.

Freedom Memorial Day Park Memorial Day Celebration – May 31 –

The Freedom Memorial Park Steering Committee, along with the Cumberland County Veterans Council, is holding a formal Memorial Day Ceremony at Freedom Memorial Park with lots of participants. There will be seating for over 300 visitors.

Tentative program is:

Master of Ceremony comments

Posting of the colors

Invocation

National Anthem

Toast to the Flag

America the Beautiful

Guest Speaker

Wreath presentations to monuments

Amazing Grace by bagpipes

Benediction

Rendering of honors

TAPS

<http://blogs.fayobserver.com/operationmarriage/May-2010/31-Days-of-Glory>