



All-American Week honors service

Updated 05/18/2009 08:37 PM

By: Caitlin Cissne

FORT BRAGG – All-American Week kicked off Monday morning at Fort Bragg.

Paratroopers, veterans and family members alike gathered at the base to pay respects to fallen soldiers.

It's an important trip for many veterans like Gregory Davis, who made a stop at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum before attending the ceremony.

"I come down here to reminisce, to see a lot of paratroopers that I once knew and just enjoy all of these festivities that the 82nd Airborne Division does for all us old paratroopers," Davis said.

Davis travels to Fayetteville and Fort Bragg each year not just to pay respects to those troopers who have passed on, but to show his support for those still in the line of duty.

"We come down to honor all those young men and women today that have sacrificed so much and continue to sacrifice," Davis said.

All-American Week typically brings many visitors to Fayetteville. Events this year are scaled back due to deployments, but Fayetteville Visitors Bureau President John Meroski doesn't expect the economy to affect travel plans this month.

"When it comes to honoring friends and remembering heroes, money doesn't really come into play," Meroski said. "We should all step up and do what we need to do in order to pay homage to those who give us democracy and those that give us freedom to enjoy every day."

For Davis and many others like him, no matter the state of the economy, this trip to Fort Bragg is a pilgrimage he wouldn't miss for anything.

"Didn't even cross my mind. This is a trip that I would sacrifice something else in order to come down," Davis said. "It's something that I guess is embedded in me and others like me."

http://www.news14.com/content/top_stories/609400/all-american-week-honors-service/Default.aspx