

## **America's First Military Sanctuary Community is the Ideal Place for Military Reunions**

May 12, 2009

Military reunions are a time for camaraderie, reminiscing and fellowship. Fayetteville, NC, the Military's First Sanctuary Community famous for its military heritage and support that spans decades, is the ideal place to hold military reunions. As the headquarters of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, the city has a real sense of pride for protecting our nation and is second to none when it comes to community support for active duty, reserves and veterans of all military branches.

Upcoming ceremonies such as the 82nd Airborne Division Memorial and the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry (F.I.L.I.) Anniversary truly capture and bring to life the military history and appreciation that is deeply intertwined in the citizens and community of Fayetteville.

The 82nd Airborne Memorial ceremony, set for May 18, 2009 at 2 p.m., during All-American Week, will honor and recognize its 7,000+ (WWII - current conflict in Iraq/Afghanistan) fallen soldiers. The event is expected to bring together 1,000 to 2,000 military members, and includes a wreath laying and remarks for the 307 Airborne Engineer Battalion (AEB) WWII, 3d Brigade (Golden Brigade), 82nd Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans and Gold Star families.

The annual F.I.L.I. Anniversary ceremony will be held August 23, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. and will focus on its oldest WWII veteran, Herman L. Bishop, who's been an active member for 70 years. This year marks the 216th anniversary of the F.I.L.I. making it the oldest unit in the South and North Carolina's official historical military command. The ceremony includes a muster on the old parade ground, passing of colors, bagpipe playing and a drink from the special ceremonial chalice.

The community is also celebrating 31 Days of Glory the entire month of May with daily events to honor those in uniform from past to present. Please visit [www.31daysofglory.com](http://www.31daysofglory.com) for a complete listing of all events, days, times and locations.

These types of authentic events demonstrate why Fayetteville, NC is the model location for military reunions. The community was recently recognized by Peter Greenberg as one of America's most patriotic communities in Newsmax magazine and by Time magazine as America's most pro-military town. The town invites you to bring your fellow soldiers, airmen, marines, coast guardsmen, and national guardsmen together to reminisce during a reunion in America's First Military Sanctuary, Fayetteville, NC.

To view photos from last year's 82nd Airborne Memorial Day ceremony click the link: <http://www.rubberneckmedia.com/clients/Fayetteville/82ndAMC/2008Photos.html>

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#### 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](http://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.topix.net/content/prweb/2009/05/americas-first-military-sanctuary-community-is-the-ideal-place-for-military-reunions>