

## Anson County Represented at NC Veterans Park Dedication

In a release from Ted Ward, Anson County Veterans Service Officer: Early Monday morning on July 4th around 6:20am a convoy of citizens departed from the parking lot of the Department of Social Services in Wadesboro in route to Fayetteville for the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans

Park. Being escorted by the Charlotte and Atlanta, the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, a minibus provided by Anson County Transportation Services with the participants of the hand casting project held in December and a convoy of other veterans with family members made their way to Fayetteville. Stopping for breakfast at the Waffle House in Raeford, NC we encountered many curious

we were greeted by hundreds of other veterans who had made the trip from all over the state. There were many special guests at the ceremony including veterans from all over North Carolina along with Governor Beverly E. Perdue who told listeners that the new Veterans Park is just one more proof that North Carolina is the most military friendly in the country. North Carolina ranks number three in the nation in the number of military personnel stationed here. Other special

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people who were honored and amazed to find out that we were traveling with living history makers such as Mr. Jake Hanna, former Prisoner of War and Mr. John Lester Harris, a member of the Buffalo Soldiers, both serving during World War II and their wives, Mrs. Becky Hanna and Mrs. Janie Harris. Also on board was Ms Shirley Allen of the VFW Post 10403 who also participated in the hand casting project as a supporter of Anson County Veterans. Mr. Hanna, Mr. Hanna, Mrs Hanna, Ms Allen and Dantys Christian of the Anson High School ROTC program (who could not be with us at the ceremony) hands are part of a permanent exhibit at the park representing Anson County Veterans and their supporters. It is important to note that the park recognizes no individuals, wars or branches of service, but all veterans. After arriving at the park



guests included Joe Riojas, the US Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary, Tony Chavonne, Mayor of Fayetteville, North Carolina, members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation and State Legislative Delegation and an audio feed from LTG Frank Helmick in Iraq. The park, located on five acres next to Fayetteville's Airborne and Special operations Museum, includes a visitor's center with a chandelier made of more than 30,000 dog tags, as well as water features and an amphitheater where the Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Chorus performed for some of the more than 2,000 people who braved 90 degree heat to attend the ceremony. The park consists of a visitor's center, seven water features, walking paths and public art including the Oath of Service Wall where the casted hands of veterans from all 100 North Carolina counties will be displayed. This park will provide a place for meaningful reflection and inspiration in a community setting that is beautiful, bold and unique to honor the lives, service and pride of North Carolina veterans who served in all five branches of our nations military. Anson County should be proud that we were represented with such a distinguished group. Everyone is encouraged to visit the park to see the permanent exhibit of the pylon that represents Anson County. The park is located at 300 Bragg Blvd, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Special thanks to all that helped in making this historical trip possible.

### Logan Goodwin Provides Stuffed Animals Once Again!



For the fifth year in a row, Logan Goodwin, age nine, and his grandmother, Diane Goodwin have given the Anson County Sheriff's Office a new supply of 150 stuffed animal and figures. These are given out to kids in crisis situations. The Sheriff's Office uses them and distributes them to other law enforcement agencies, DSS and Domestic Violence. These agencies, along with the Sheriff's Office, give them out to children at accident scenes, police calls, domestic violence or any situation where small children are frightened and need something to "hug" or hold on to. Sheriff Tommy Allen said, "Sometimes children are in the middle of very harsh situations. Life's not always fair and little children seem to be where it's the most unfair. I've seen these stuffed animals dry up tears and give a trembling child something secure to hold on to. I want to thank Logan and Diane for starting this project here five years ago." "Logan told me he hoped one day we could have these stuffed animals to give out to children who were NOT sad, and that no child would cry or be unhappy. Now that makes you stop and think," Allen said. Since this project began church, other organizations and individuals have helped keep a good supply on hand at the Sheriff's Office, along with Logan's donations. Logan is the son of Bruce and Kitt Goodwin of Wadesboro.

### Anson/Stanly Creativity Economy Project Takes Another Step

On Friday, June 10, participants in the regional Creativity Economy initiative in Anson and Stanly Counties met at the Cooperative Extension Center in Wadesboro to begin the next phase of the project. To help launch upcoming community work, special guests Keith Crisco, NC Secretary of Commerce and Anita Brown-Graham, Director of the Institute for Emerging Issues at NC State University, met with the group. Secretary Crisco reported that the creative sector in North Carolina brought in \$41 billion dollars last year, as opposed to \$17 billion in tourism and \$74 billion in agriculture. He explained, "Creativity is the fiber of our economy and will bring communities into the next generation. That is because creative companies and creative working atmospheres allows you to hire the best and the brightest." Director Brown-Graham explained to the group that creativity does not benefit only urban areas. That is why this initiative was implemented. She told the group, "Creativity is not a passing fad. Neither is it a top-down imposed effort." She explained that to truly take advantage of this opportunity, we have to harness the creative potential in our communities. The group nominated a steering committee chair and co-chair for the project going forward. They are Nancy Lipe of Falling Rivers Gallery in Albemarle and David Whitesides, Printshop Coordinator at SPCC. Priority strategies that will be implemented in the coming months were also announced, and chairs were nominated. They are:

- Encourage visual and performing arts venues in the two counties to coordinate and combine their marketing efforts, Edna Lipe-Harkey of Stanly County.
- Develop and promote a "Taste of the Pee Dee Festival," David Smith of Anson County.
- Increase signage to promote roadside tourism throughout Anson and Stanly Counties (especially on Highways 74 and 52), Chris Lambert of Stanly County.

The steering committee and working groups will also post ongoing reports to the Anson-Stanly Creativity Economy blog and to its Facebook page at: [www.goansonstanly.blogspot.com](http://www.goansonstanly.blogspot.com) and [www.facebook.com/Creativity.in.Anson.Stanly.Counties](http://www.facebook.com/Creativity.in.Anson.Stanly.Counties). Finally, Tom Melton, Deputy Director for NC Cooperative Extension announced that \$10,000 is available in the overall grant that can be allocated to ongoing project work in Anson and Stanly Counties. At the close of the meeting, participants described factors that can influence successful outcomes, including money to support projects, staff positions, involving young people, communication, a shorter name for the overall initiative, and developing a logo and a brand. Anson County volunteers working on the creativity initiative are: Todd Moore, David Whitesides, Cynthia Harris, Anna Baucom, Dale Nelson, Joe Madaras, Cynthia Little, Nancy Cornwell, David Smith, Lee Roy Lookabill, Catherine Crandall, Roe Boothby and Don Altieri.



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