

05/27/17

Military Appreciation Month—2017



Goldsboro Elks Lodge # 0139

Special points of interest:

- * Wings of Wayne Air-Show Field Trip
- * DownEast Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Rally to the Kinston Veterans Home
- * Wings of Wayne— Military Appreciation Festival

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Military Appreciation Month

May is designated as Military Appreciation Month and the Goldsboro, NC Elks Lodge organized a series of events in support of Military Members (active duty and Veterans).

The events included; a field trip for residents of the Kinston Veterans Home to the Wings Over Wayne Air Show at SJAFB, DownEast Rolling Thunder (a motorcycle rally from Veterans Memorial Park in Goldsboro to the Kinston Veterans Home) and Wings of Wayne (a Military Appreciation Festival) held in downtown Goldsboro, NC.

These events would not have been possible without the

tireless efforts of Volunteers from the Elks coupled with the support and commitment from Goldsboro Mayor, Chuck Allen, SJAFB Wing Commander Col Christopher Sage and the community at large.



Special Thanks to our Sponsors, the City of Goldsboro & SJAFB

These events received strong support from SJAFB, the City of Goldsboro, the Arts Council of Wayne County in addition to the local community. The site for the main event was provided by the City with direct support from Mayor Chuck Allen and City Manager

Scott Stevens. The Chicken Wing Cook-off featured a panel of Judges including; SJAFB Wing Commander, Col Christopher Sage, Mayor Chuck Allen, Goldsboro City Council Member Ham and Chef Samuel Jones (Sam Jones BBQ). The personal involvement of

these high-profile leaders generated interest throughout the community. The event had excellent support from the community as was demonstrated by the group of sponsors which included 40 event sponsors, 12 cook teams and 24 vendor booths.

Wings of Wayne Air Show Field Trip

The Field trip to the Wings Over Wayne Air Show took place on Friday, May 20th and was attended by several Veterans and staff from the Kinston Veterans Home in addition to the Volunteers from the Goldsboro, Kinston and New Bern Elks Lodges.



Members of the SJAFCB All-Star Volunteer Team!

That day, the Air Show is closed to the public and only VIP's are allowed in, which

allowed the Veterans to bypass the long lines and security delays so our group of Veterans could enjoy a special treat.

The following two days, the Air Show becomes a public event with over 100,000 people

attending.

The privilege of this field trip for the Veterans from the Kinston Veterans Home was possible due to the personal support by the SJAFCB Wing Commander, Col Christopher Sage. Upon learning of the concept, Col Sage assembled a group of All-Stars, led by Maj Matthew Olde, Capt Sande Penuliar and MSgt Benjamin Simmons.

Their team planned and executed an incredible day for the Veterans.

With the first pass of the Blue Angels, one of the Veterans (a 99 year old Army Veteran) shared his story of surviving the Battle of the Bulge.

VIP Treatment for our Heroes!

The guests were treated to streamlined processing thru base security, a private VIP area that included tents, refreshments and facilities which took into consideration the needs of the Veterans. The area was a mere 100 yards from the flight line and they enjoyed an incredible day with lots of VIP treatment. The Veterans

group used the buses which had been donated by the NC Elks to transport the group from their home in Kinston. With the first pass of the Blue Angels, one of the residents (a 99 year old Army Veteran) shared his story of surviving the Battle of the Bulge.

The SJAFCB staff was amazing in their support of this day!



Photos from the Field Trip...



The Blue Angels—precision flying!



Fly-overs bring back memories



DownEast Rolling Thunder

DownEast Rolling Thunder was a motorcycle rally from Goldsboro to the Kinston Veterans Home. This was part of a day-long festival, Wings of Wayne which was a Military Appreciation Festival held on Saturday May 27th. The Rally was made possible as the Goldsboro and Kinston Elks worked in concert with each other and with the staff from the Kinston Veterans Home. Strong financial support was received as this was sponsored by BoJangles'.

The group of riders included; Bikers for Christ, Guardian Brotherhood, Fallen Saints, American Legion Riders, The Ghost Riders and more.

The event kicked off with an opening ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park which included the singing of the National Anthem, an Opening Prayer and the Laying of a wreath.



The bikers (over 150 in total) were then provided a police escort the entire way (35 miles) and upon their arrival at the Kinston Veterans

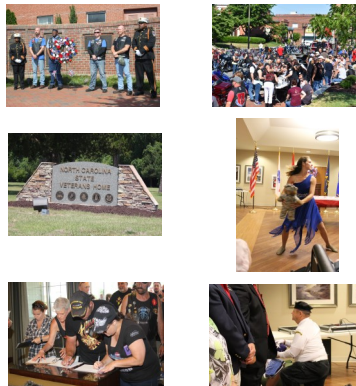
Home they completed a salute to the Veterans by riding around all four buildings and then they gathered and parked in front of the facility.

A program & day to remember...

Upon their arrival, refreshments were provided by Kona-Ice. Once inside, the bikers and the residents were treated to a special program which included; a dancing duet & the reading of poetry by artists arranged by the Wayne County Arts Council. There wasn't a dry eye in the room and the Veterans were thrilled by the huge crowd of

people that had travelled there to spend time with them. New friendships were formed and the ongoing support from the bikers to recognize the sacrifices made by the Veterans which afford us our freedom was an amazing thing to witness. As the bikers left to return to Goldsboro, the Veterans were treated to a meal

funded by the Goldsboro Elks.

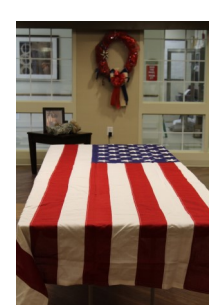


...the Veterans were thrilled by the huge crowd of people that had travelled there to spend time with them.

Photos from DownEast Rolling Thunder...



Riders arrive at the Kinston Veterans Home



Wings of Wayne Military Festival

Wings of Wayne was a Military Appreciation Festival held in downtown Goldsboro. It included; a Chicken Wing Cook-off, children's activities, live music, craft and food vendors, and more. The event also featured the 1st annual Elks Military Appreciation Awards including; Airman of the Year (A1C Ryan J. Keene), Volunteer of the Year (SSgt Samantha Cooper) and Spouse of the Year (Susan Riley) from SJAFB. Admission to the event was free and the event was attended by approximately 1,500—2,000 people. The City also provided a stage for the bands, power and waste removal services and Police Department support for the



event. Admission to the event was free to the public and in the spirit of true Military Appreciation two of the three Chicken Wing Cook-off winners donated their prize money back to the event and the Veterans Fund for the Goldsboro Elks Lodge! The Judges selected Richard Yearwood as the Champion of the Chicken Wing competition and the People's Choice award was presented to the team from Bikers for Christ.

It is an ongoing privilege to support our Military with activities throughout the year and especially during Military Appreciation Month!

Photos from Wings of Wayne 2017



Col Sage, Elk Event Chair McGrath, Mayor Allen

ER Lawrence & Emcee Goss



Celebrity Judges—hard at work!



Opening band—Spare Change



Closing band— All My Rowdy Friends



Cook-off Winner, Richard Yearwood



People's Choice Winner—Bikers for Christ



SJAFB Vol of the Year—SSgt S Cooper



SJAFB Airman of the Year—A1C R Keene