



Community News

HEROES HOMECOMING FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

by Jim Johnson

Vietnam Veterans were given a long awaited official "Welcome Home" by the City of Fayetteville, NC from November 4th through the 13th, 2011. City leaders planned for a year and a half to make the ten day welcome home unique for Vietnam Vets.

Over forty years ago, when Vietnam Vets returned, because of the unpopularity of the war, there were no welcome homes, no parades and many vets were even treated as if the war was their fault. Many had experienced unspeakable exposure to terror and trauma over and over; yet, their needs often were ignored.

Mayor Tony Chavonne enlisted the support of local politicians, business and military leaders and the planning began for over sixty events and displays. Expenses for the events were all paid for by private donations.

The opening ceremony set the tone for the celebration. Guest speakers were passionate with their very moving comments. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a Vietnam vintage Cobra helicopter gunship circled, hovered and made several maneuvers, all to the delight of the several hundred attendees.

During the week, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall was positioned between the Airborne and Special Operations Museum and the recently opened Veterans Park. Thousands of vets and persons of interest visited the Wall which was open twenty-fours a day.

Sporting events were conducted to raise money for such organizations as the Wounded Warrior Project. A USO show starring Connie Stevens was presented as well as the Broadway hit, Miss Saigon.



Rev. John T. Johnson - (910) 818-1149

A highlight of the events was a huge Veterans parade featuring nearly a hundred entries. The streets were lined with a crowd of thousands cheering and holding large signs saying, "Thank You" in large letters.

The Heroes Home Coming was concluded with a Fellowship Breakfast Celebration. Rev. John T. Johnson, himself a Vietnam Veteran, was the planning coordinator for this wonderful event. In addition to veterans and families, attending and participating were the Honorable Bill Crisp, former Prisoner of War LTC (Ret) Ray Schrupp who was held in captivity for five years, Honorable Elmer Floyd, Honorable Charles Evans, MSG (Ret) Judge Kemp, Mr. George Breece, Bishop Larry O. Wright, Sr and Mayor Tony Chavonne. Introducing the keynote speaker was Col. (Ret) Wil-

liam "Earl" Atkinson. He served 31 years in the Army and is owner of Atkinson Incorporated. He was born in Greenville, NC and attended North Carolina A & T State University. From there he was drafted and went to Vietnam where he rose in rank from E-1 E-5 in one year. He later was commissioned and retired as a Colonel and was Deputy Commander of the US Army's Delta Force. He and his wife Pat have lived in the Fayetteville community intermittently since the early 1970s.

Dr. James D. Johnson, (LTC, retired), a Vietnam veteran, was the keynote speaker. He is a retired Army Chaplain and was a counselor/therapist in Fayetteville for over 15 years prior to retiring again in 2005. He has four earned degrees and was an infantry battalion chaplain in the Mekong Delta. He was awarded several Bronze Stars (two for valor), the Air Medal, five Meritorious Service medals and two Army Commendation medals. He is also an author and his most recent book is *Combat Trauma: A Personal Look at Long Term Consequences* (Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc).

To say that the Heroes Homecoming was an overwhelming success is an understatement. Many thousands attended the various events and they came from many states. To a person, their attitude was "Thank you for thanking us. **Job well done!**"

Congratulations Tiffany J. Brown



Congratulations Tiffany J. Brown 2009 Graduate of Howard Hall School of Life Science and Health. Daughter of Ashton & Pauline Brown Has made the Dean's List at A & T University Greensboro, N.C.

*Brown, Williams,
& Generette Families*

ALPHA

Counseling & DWI Services

www.alphacounselingdwi.com
Email: alphadwi@nc.rr.com
Serving Cumberland, Hoke, and Surrounding Counties

- DWI Assessments
- ADETS, Short Term Treatment
- Long Term Treatment
- Out of State Clearances
- DOT Evaluations (CDL Clearance)

Visa/Mastercard Accepted -- Payment Plans Available

5764 Hilltop Road
Hope Mills, North Carolina
(910)-875-0070
George Elliott, MA, LPC, LCAS
President/CEO

Criminal Defense

(State, Federal & Military Courts)

- All Crimes

Traffic Offenses

(Incl. Fort Bragg)

- Driving While Impaired
- Revoked Licenses
- Speeding & Reckless Driving
- All Other Traffic Matters

Civil Litigation

(Plaintiff or Defense)

- Personal Injury
- Medical Malpractice
- Business Disputes
- Employment

The Law Office of

STEPHEN CRAIG STOKES

Attorney and Counselor at Law



STOKES-IT!

Former:
Army Jag Officer (Major)
Army Prosecutor
Army Defense Attorney
Special Assistant, US Attorney
Assistant State's Attorney

Equality and Justice, Common to All

200 Dick Street, Suite B
Fayetteville, NC 28301

910-323-0223

910-323-2998

sstokes972@aol.com



Stephen C. Stokes
Attorney At Law



STOKES-IT!

In Most Cases We Can Re-Calendar Missed Court Appearances