

Law enforcement officers honor their own

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

A swarm of law enforcement officers from around the state invaded Hanes Mall Monday for a noontime ceremony to kick off National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, which began Sunday and will conclude on Saturday.

The week is a time for the officers to reflect on their fallen comrades. It's a time for the public as well to show its appreciation to the men and women who wear the uniform and badge with honor and integrity.

And for many law enforcement agencies, the week has become a powerful marketing tool. Departments here have set up booths throughout the lower level of the mall to inform the public of its responsibilities and to provide employment information to those interested in joining the ranks.

Nearly 100 officers gathered in the mall's center court as Police Chief Linda Davis and representatives from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department launched a week-long series of exhibits and activities. They stood, as if at attention, throughout the 20-minute ceremony while a few citizens and family members of slain officers occupied rows of chairs that had been set up.

A choir, made up of members of the city's police department, sang the national anthem in multi-part harmony. They stood beside a police and sheriff's department color guard, who hoisted flags of the United States, North Carolina and Winston-Salem.

"We can enjoy our weekends and holidays because we know (law enforcement officers) are on the streets keeping us safe," Davis said.

Several agencies will take part in the activities at the mall this week. They include: the State Bureau of Investigation, the N.C. Highway Patrol, the Wake Forest University Police Department and Forsyth County Animal Control.

Davis used the occasion to



Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Steven Hailey, left, and Kenneth Penderman, officers with the Orange County Correctional Center, work an exhibit in Hanes Mall.

spotlight two of her officers who she says have exemplified what police work is all about.

She mentioned recent Medal of Merit winner Officer Angie Swaim, who successfully negotiated with a deranged man who had threatened to drop an 11-day-old baby from a car window. Swaim was on vacation and unable to attend the ceremony.

Davis named Officer H.F. Farley as the recipient of the annual Rufus W. Dalton Award. The award - sponsored by the Winston-Salem Foundation - goes to law enforcement officers who have stood in harm's way and sustained injuries as a result of it.

Farley, who was struck across the head with a metal object after pursuing a suspect on foot, received a stipend with the award.

After telling the crowd of officers that citizens throughout the city are extremely grateful for the services they provide to the community, Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Burke presented Davis with a resolution from the mayor and board of aldermen proclaiming Law Enforcement Memorial Week throughout Winston-

Salem. The contingent from the sheriff's department rivaled that of the police department in attendance. Sheriff Ron Barker was unable to make the event because of his mother's health.

Col. Allen Gentry spoke on Barker's behalf. He praised the event. Oftentimes the only news the public hears about law enforcement is bad news, Gentry said.

Gentry, who works in internal affairs, said people call his department only when they want to report wrongdoing.

"I don't get any phone calls from people commending us, telling us we are doing a good job," he said.

But the tide is changing, Gentry said. More and more people are coming to appreciate the work that he and his fellow law enforcers do.

After it was over, much of the crowd dispersed, but some hung around to view the many exhibits that have been erected around the mall by various departments.

The most touching display belongs to the Winston-Salem Police Department.

Mall-goers likely will not miss the 19 head shots of Winston-Salem's finest on a large display table near the main entrance. The pictures are of officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Some of the pictures are in color. Others are in fuzzy black and white. They stretch back more than a century, from Officer M.M. Vickers, who was shot near the courthouse in 1895, to Officer S.L. Amos II, who was killed by a suspect during a police standoff at an apartment complex on Feb. 27, 1995.

Many of the officers, however, did not die at the hands of a gunman. A number of them died in accidents involving police vehicles. Both African American officers featured in the memorial died in such accidents.

Officer Al C. Kinard was killed in 1961 when his three-wheel vehicle crashed into a light pole. After his death, helmets became a requirement throughout the department when operating such vehicles.

Officer M.R. Jennings died in

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Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Brooke Anderson leads her last discussion at Reynolda House. The head of the Diggs Gallery will begin a new job in New York next month.

Anderson uses swan song to talk race and art

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The soon-to-be former director of Winston-Salem State University's Diggs Gallery encouraged her colleagues in the arts community to expand their interests beyond the museums, theaters and concert halls and take an active role in community development and race relations.

"When I attend (race relations events), sometimes I'm the only-arts person there," Brooke Anderson said. "I don't think my colleagues in the arts field are expanding outside of the walls of the arts."

Anderson's remarks came during a discussion she led at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art on the arts and race relations. Last Thursday, 70 people, many of whom work within the arts community, packed into the museum's glassed-in patio to listen and chime-in suggestions.

With the proper leadership, the arts community can bridge the racial divide and aid the city with its development efforts downtown, Anderson said. Where religious and political efforts to end racism fail, the arts can open people up to various cultures in a very subtle way, she said.

Anderson has grand plans for Winston-Salem, even though come the end of this week, she will no longer call the city home.

She has accepted the director's position at the new Contemporary Center in New York City. The center is a division of the Museum of American Folk Art.

Besides providing new challenges, Anderson says the move northward will put her closer to family and friends in her native Connecticut.

But when she returns here to visit, Anderson says she would like to see the arts community take action on at least two very important projects.

She wants to see the old Davis Garage building near Winston-Salem State University transformed into an African American arts center. The building's history - it used to be a train station - makes it an ideal place for such a center, Anderson said.

She also shared her dream of moving the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art from its palatial location off Reynolda Road to a location downtown. Such a move would spur development downtown and give the arts center a more central location so that all the people of Winston-Salem can enjoy what it has to offer.

Although many would dismiss the two goals as pipe dreams, Anderson said they are both doable. But it will take unity among those in the arts community and a large arts organization taking a strong leadership role in the city, both of which she said do not exist as of yet.

"(The arts community) can't get to the other stuff until we are working together as a team ourselves," Anderson said.

But individually or collectively, people in the arts can do things to foster healthy race relations in the city. Anderson chided her colleagues for not attending black arts events like the N.C. Black Theatre Festival. Anderson says she has continually attended the event since she moved here eight years ago.

"I really do recognize that there are not a lot of people who look like me there...And it's really sad; it's a wonderful event," Anderson said.

She also urged African Americans to attend traditionally white events at venues like the N.C. School of the Arts.

At Anderson's suggestion, other people offered ideas on how the arts can improve the racial climate. Jim Sanders, director of the Sawtooth Center, urged his colleagues to look into the histories of their arts organizations and start by refuting past racist policies. After that is done, Sanders said, organizations can then "look outward."

Many suggested that race and class go hand in hand. Perceived by some as a sport for the leisure class, the arts have not always had an open door policy.

The fact that most galleries and museums are located in swank, mostly white suburbs, has not expanded the appeal of the arts, some said.

"I think the question is not only race but class," said Conchita Ndege, the director of the Mattie Reed African Museum at N.C. A&T State University. "They look at SECCA, they look at Reynolda House and they think these are elite institutions."

But if poor and minority people do venture into such institutions, they usually have enjoyable experiences, Ndege said.

Cathy Chapman, an African American woman from Winston-Salem who now lives in Burlington, says that it's important for African Americans to spread the word when they attend events at arts organizations. "Spreading the word is very important," she said. "I think (blacks) need to go out and say, 'This was wonderful; you need to go.'"

Chapman heads an arts organization in Burlington. Her husband, Ron Torain, commended Anderson for just having a discussion about the arts and race. It's a topic that probably wouldn't even be discussed in Burlington, he said.

Torain is organizing the Burlington/Alamance International Cultural Festival. He said that he has seen first-hand how various forms of cultural artistic expression have helped heal racial wounds.

After the discussion, he told stories of African American children changing their attitudes toward Hispanics after seeing a Mariachi band perform and white children changing their negative impressions of blacks after hearing gospel music.

"You can't walk away from (the arts) without feeling like a different person," he said.

Although the arts is not where many people look for racial healings, Torain said new methods are needed to combat the age-old problem of racism and discrimination.

"We can't use the same tools we used in the '60s," he said. "If you start talking about sit-ins and marching now, people will laugh at you."

At one point during the discussion, attendee Martin Rader asked Anderson about the Arts Council's role as a leadership body for the city's arts community. The mere question caused several members of the audience to snicker.

Anderson said the Arts Council does have the kind of pull that could unite the arts community, but the group has not taken the initiative of doing that as of yet.

"I don't think they are doing what I'm aching for us to have," she said.

When Rader, who sits on the Arts Council board, asked Anderson

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