



Rams cheer squad will have camps

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Achievers honored at North Carolina Room

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75 cents
Celebrating 85 Years
Community Journalism

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Photos by Layla Farmer
Eugene Haney makes his way down the aisle at Diggs Elementary School during the celebration.

A Hero's Welcome

Students salute the veteran for whom they raised money

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

A local World War II veteran was honored with a special celebration and a chance to make a once in a lifetime trip last week at Diggs Elementary School.

Eugene Haney, 87, a city native and a longtime employee of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system, received a send-off service from the students at Diggs, where he has spent the last year managing the students who ride the magnet school buses to and from school.

At the urging of Art Teacher Carol Donn, the students and staff have worked since last fall to raise \$500 to sponsor Haney on the May 22 Triad Flight of Honor.

"He's a delightful person ... when you meet him, you just fall in love with him. We're real pleased to be able to do this for him," related Donn, a veteran educator. "...It feels good anytime that you can help someone out with something special like this, especially when they've

sacrificed like he did, put their life on the line for our country."

Led by the Honor Flight organization, the Flight of Honor transports veterans from across the nation to Washington, DC to visit memorials for their fallen comrades.

Though the veterans fly for free, Donn said she wanted to support Honor Flight with the school's donation as a way of showing their gratitude. World War II vets are of special priority for the network, which has flown tens of thousands of vets to Washington, according to its

Web site. Exuberant cheers rang out from the children in the auditorium at Diggs Friday afternoon, as Haney strolled down the aisle on the arm of his wife of more than 60 years, Rosa Lee. Haney took his time making his way to his seat, pausing to shake the hands of the excited youngsters, who waved homemade signs proclaiming "You are our hero."

See Haney on A10



Donn

SMILING FROM ABOVE



Photo by Kevin Walker

The family of Henry Stepp Sr. poses Sunday around a newly-unveiled historic marker at Odd Fellows Cemetery, a century-old African American graveyard off Shorefair Drive. Stepp was at the forefront of an ongoing effort to restore Odd Fellows, which had fallen into great disrepair. He died in 2007 before he could witness many of the fruits of his labor. Stepp is buried at Odd Fellows. Sunday's unveiling was attended by several dozen people, including Mayor Allen Joines and members of the City Council.



Henry Stepp Sr.

Church taboos aired at forum

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

No public health campaign or surgeon general's warning has as much sway with black folks than the words spoken by a preacher from the pulpit on Sunday morning.

It is under that premise that a local church is leading a call for people of faith to tear down the iron wall that has separated the black church from taboo issues like sex, abuse and homosexuality.

The Church of the Holy Spirit Fellowship on Burke Street hosted a day-long, free-flowing discussion on Saturday centered around a presentation by the Rev. Irene Monroe, the coordinator of the African-American Roundtable of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. Monroe is leading forums across the nation around the theme, "The Politics of Silence: Homophobia in the Black Church."

Monroe, the Rev. Roger Hayes, pastor of Church of the Holy Spirit Fellowship, and most of the nearly 100 attendees at Saturday's event subscribe to the notion that issues like HIV/AIDS and even sexism are such major problems in the black community because the church has pushed mute on the issue of sexuality — especially homosexuality.

"We don't talk about sex — period. We are scared for some reason," Bishop Donagrat McCluney of the United Progressive Pentecostal Church Fellowship of Greensboro said in response to one of several questions that



Rev. Hayes



Rev. Monroe

Chenault tells grads to serve others

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

For American Express CEO and President Kenneth Chenault, "opportunity and obligation" go hand in hand. Chenault, who took over the corporation just five months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks took an economic whack at Amex and devastated the national economy, knows a thing or two about both.

Chenault, who served as keynote speaker at Wake Forest University's commencement ceremony May 17, urged the soon-to-be alumni to practice the school's motto, which is Latin for "for humanity" wherever



WFU Photo

Kenneth Chenault addresses WFU graduates.

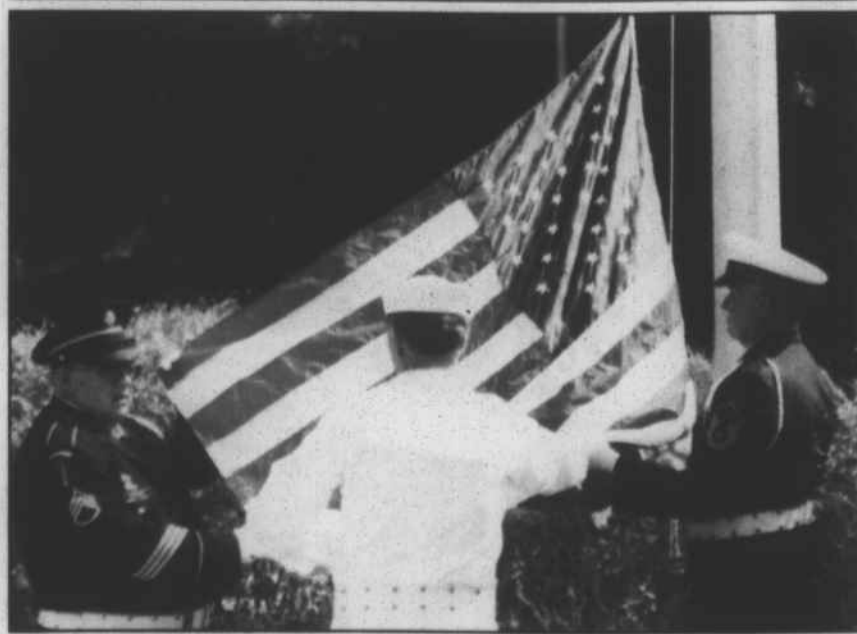
they went.

"The ethic of service — that's the mark Wake Forest has left of you, and that's

your charge, your mission as you leave here today," he told

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Photos by Todd Luck
Eleventh District Veterans of Foreign Wars N.C. Color Guard members place the new flag on its pole.

Residents celebrate Old Glory's return

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Veterans who reside at Healy Towers were honored last Thursday as the senior citizens apartment complex dedicated the new American flag that now flies above it.

It had been quite some time since the flag pole that stands in front of the complex, a Housing Authority of Winston-Salem property on Healy Drive, had flown Old Glory. When Healy's new manager Anthony Jones arrived four months ago, he made restoring the flag a key priority. Jones



Marvin Horne

decided that simply raising a flag wasn't enough. It was his idea to turn the occasion into a tribute for Healy residents who served in the Armed



J.D. Hill

Forces. "I wouldn't be able to do what I do today if it was not for the sacrifices you have made," Jones

told the veterans during the dedication ceremony. "You may not have come home to a ticker tape parade when you were discharged, you may not have had a hero's welcome, but we at Healy Towers and also we at the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, appreciate your service and we appreciate your sacrifice."

Healy is a 104 unit subsidized complex for adults 55 and older. The names of the veterans who call the complex home were read aloud

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