

LOCAL NEWS

9/11 remember at City Hall ceremony

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

A soft breeze blew through the concrete valley outside of City Hall on Tuesday afternoon, awakening the flags for the Patriot's Day observance at noon.

The annual ceremony, which began after the horrific events of September 11, 2001, when terrorists shook America's soil, honored all of the brave men and women who continue to protect our country's liberty and freedom.

Police Chief Melvin Proctor gave the invocation. Fire Chief Frank Burns led the crowd, gathered outside of City Hall, in the Pledge of Allegiance. Kings Mountain vocalist Shana Adams sang the National Anthem and the Kings Mountain Police Honor Guard presented the colors.

"Since September 11, 2001, the City of Kings Mountain has continued to have an observance and remember that day," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "Our President has designated this day today as Patriot's Day. It's something I feel very fond about that we should come and remember those who sacrificed their lives and I salute our emergency personnel and law enforcement in our area."

Members of the Kings Mountain Police Department, Fire Department, Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, rescue squad, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol were in attendance. They were all hon-

ored for their service.

"We thank you for your courage, your professionalism, your dedication, your compassion as you risk your lives every-day in performing your duties. We are a grateful community who thanks each one of you for your service," Murphrey said. "We will never forget the heroic action of the rescue personnel at ground zero. They worked tirelessly, risking their own lives, duty-bound with honor and courage, some giving the ultimate sacrifice."

"We could never have imagined the terrorist attacks that we read about and watched on television, occurring in distant lands, could ever happen in America. But terrorism follows no rules," Murphrey said. "9/11/2001 is a day that will live in infamy, forever. An unprovoked, horrific, cowardly act of terrorism occurred when four commercial aircrafts were hijacked and death plunged from the sky in New York City, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon. Thousands of innocent people were killed on this dark day in America's history. This act was to scare and humble our nation to surrender our freedom. But the spirit of democracy cannot be killed."

Murphrey said that Kings Mountain supports its troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and in other parts of the world who continue to defend and protect our freedoms today.

Sgt. Greg Thompson, of Kings Mountain, with the NC National



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

KMPD Ofc. Todd McDougal leads the KM Police Honor Guard at Tuesday's September 11 observance as Sgt. Bob Myers salutes the flag.

Guard 505th Engineering Battalion (now the 87B Engineering Battalion), who has served on two fronts in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle, served as guest speaker.

Thompson also thanked the emergency personnel and law enforcement officers gathered for the service, calling them "a piece of the pie." "We all have a mission in life we must complete

and every one has their own individual jobs. Every one has their own individual slice of that pie. Without every one doing their part we could not complete our mission successfully."

He thanked the city for its continued support of the NC Army National Guard and the U.S. Army. "On behalf of all soldiers that have served, both here locally and abroad, I want to express my appreciation and my thanks

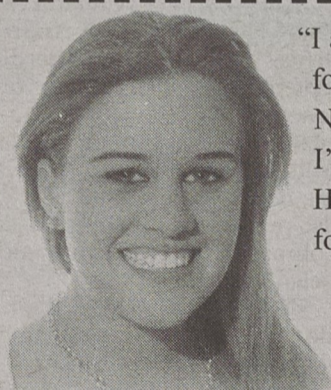
for your support," he said.

A moment of silence was accompanied by the ceremonial chiming of the bell.

County Commissioner Johnny Hutchins said that Kings Mountain has always been on the forefront of patriotism, supporting troops and its service men and women here at home. "It's not surprising that we have a good turnout here today," he said. "I'm very proud of Kings Mountain."



Left to right, city Councilman Jerry Mullinax, Volunteer Assistant Fire Chief Johnnie Caldwell, Sheriff Raymond Hamrick, and city Councilman Rodney Gordon attend Tuesday's Patriot's Day observance.



"I am so glad I came to Dr. Hannon for my braces! He is wonderful! Now that I have my braces off, I'm really going to miss visiting Hannon Orthodontics. Thanks for my great smile!"

~ Cady Grigg, Gr. 8

Hannon Orthodontics

Ask about Invisalign® for Adults & Teens

704.865.8521

Gastonia & Shelby Offices

Invisalign® • Insurance • Affordable Payments

Call TODAY for a FREE Orthodontic Exam (\$265 Value) Expires 9-21-07 Hablamos Español