

# Grover students salute veterans

What's it like for children when one of their parents leave home for active military deployment?

"It's tough," says young Grover Elementary student Blake Emory and his dad Jeff Emory, who presented a skit as a feature of a "Salute to Veterans" by Grover Elementary students Thursday.

Prior to the performance, a large number of veterans processed into the school gymnasium followed by students and teachers marching with a flag patrol of banners from every branch of the military to the applause of the student body and a large number of visitors.

SFC Donald Schenck, Col. Graham Norris, E4 Ernest McCluney, S/4 Francis Whittberg and E/4 Bill Gunter were among the local veterans who formed two lines at the walkway into the gymnasium and took the time to talk with the young people as they entered for the impressive ceremony.

"This is just a wonderful occasion," said Schenck.

Carrying the banners of the military were Caleb Johnston, US flag; Matt Ingle, NC flag; Toby Quebe-deaux, Navy; Jordan Bagwell, Marines; Calen Buchanan, Air Force; Marcus Odums, Coast Guard; and Aniya Hamilton, POW flag.

Teresa Neil and Lisa Boyd, both veterans, assisted in the patriotic program. Mrs. Neil is instrumental in planning the event each year, assisted by Kim Duckworth and Monica Martin who sang a solo and led a group of students in patriotic songs. Bugler Paul Fulton played 'Taps' and 'Reveille.' Mike Teague and several staff members provided additional special music.

Principal speaker for the event was Joe Rountree of Grover, a veteran, who said that veterans were special men and women who defended our freedoms and

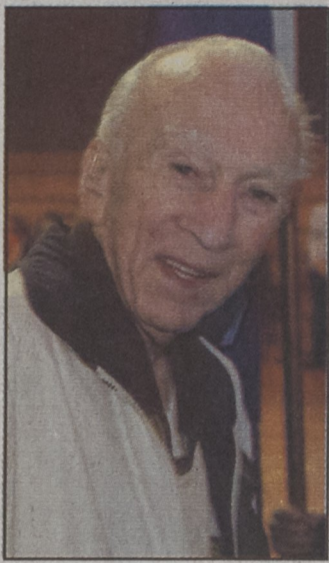
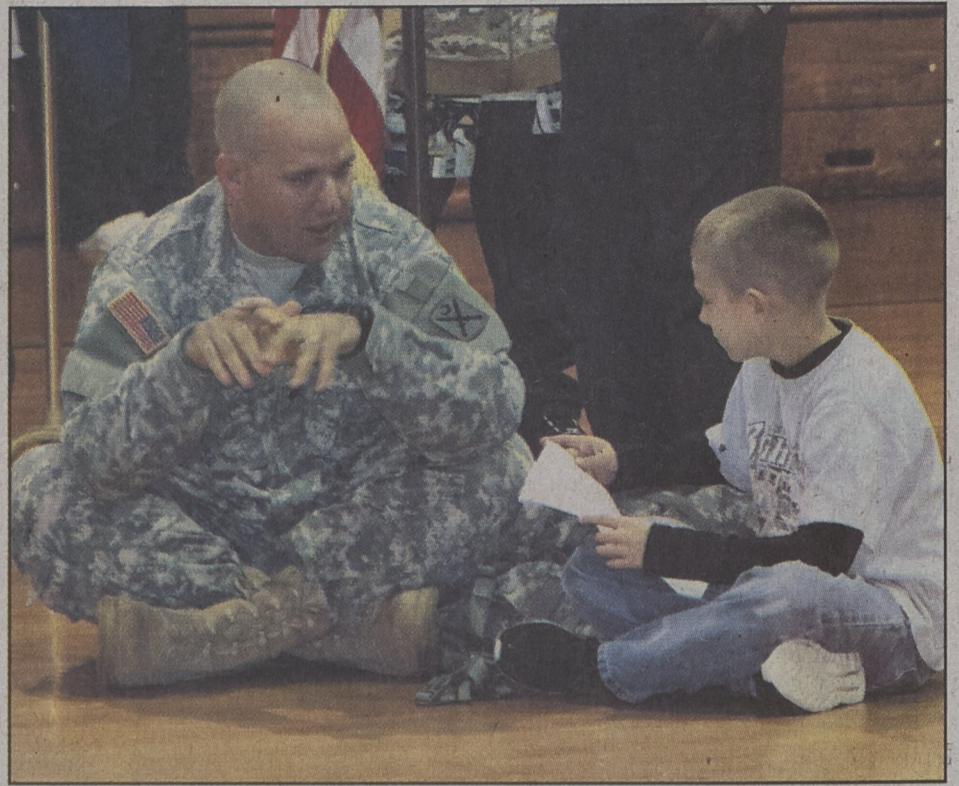
placed the service to their country above other commitments. The veterans in the audience received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Grover Principal Dr. Janet Anthony's father, J. C. Bridges, of Kings Mountain, was one of the veterans in attendance for the program.

"We always enjoy our Veterans Day program," said Anthony, "It's a time that we pause to remember their service to our country and show our appreciation."

photos by LEIGH ANNE NEWTON

Blake Emory, right, and his father Jeff Emory perform a skit for the Veterans Day Ceremony at Grover Elementary School last Thursday.



At left: J.C. Bridges, a WWII veteran, watches the Veterans Day service at Grover Elementary.



At right: Grover students pledge allegiance to the flag.

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