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## Memorial wall dedicated to KM veterans



The memorial plaque on the Vietnam War Memorial lists the name of 10 Kings Mountain area servicemen killed during the Vietnam war.



Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, and Jim Medlin dedicate the Vietnam War Memorial at Patriot's Park.

photo by Lib Stewart

### ELIZABETH STEWART

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"We brought our boys home," said tearful Vietnam veteran Jim Medlin Monday morning as he and Mayor Rick Murphrey unveiled the Patriots Memorial in downtown Kings Mountain, which honors 10 area servicemen who gave their all in America's longest war.

"Men never forgotten, some gave some, some gave all" is the inscription along with the names of those honored on the handsome plaque on the Vietnam wall.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the city plans to also include on future walls the names of local and area servicemen who fought and died in World War I, World

See MEMORIAL WALL, 6A

## US Army Reservist Blanton struck by car, killed Friday



Donald Eugene Blanton with his wife, Jyara and children Michael, 7, and Sarah, 2.

"Go see Daddy," 2-year-old Sarah Blanton told her mother, Jyara, Tuesday morning as the family of Donald Eugene 'Gene' Blanton, 25, prepared to make funeral arrangements.

"We're still in shock," said Mrs. Blanton, who said she has told the children but they are too young to understand death. Michael is 7, Dawson is 4, and Sarah is 2.

The Kings Mountain man was struck by a car and killed Friday at 8:01 p.m. while walking on Goforth Road, a short distance from his mother's home. Jyara said her husband was upset that evening and took a walk to cool down. "We don't know why. His mama was trying to get him back in the car, he was walking on the side of the road."

Gene's mother said her son had his head-

phones on and was looking down at his cell phone and neither saw the approaching car.

A Kings Mountain native, Gene was in the US Army Reserves. He loved to fish, shoot pool, cut grass and fun wrestle with his kids when he wasn't working. He grew up in the True Gospel Holiness Church.

He met his wife on a blind date and apparently it was love at first sight. Two days later they were married. Both were 22 years old. They have been married 3 1/2 years.

Trooper J. Prescott of the N.C. Highway Patrol investigated the death but said the report would not be available until Thursday. Mrs. Blanton said she was told that the driver has not been charged.

A white wreath is on the door of 1300 W. Gold St. Extension in her husband's memory.

## Christmas tree lighting to be held Nov. 20

The annual lighting of the community Christmas Tree at Mauney Memorial Library will be held Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. Christmas carols, a reading of The Christmas Story, and a visit from Santa will highlight the event. The public is invited.



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## 18th Annual Toy Run set for Saturday

Murphrey's 18th annual Scooter Shed Toy Run to benefit the Shriners Burn Center, Oxford Orphanage Masonic Home for Children, and KM Police Department Shop with a Cop will be held Saturday, Nov. 17.

Cyclists should meet at 11 a.m. at 114 Camelot Court and with police escort depart from the Scooter Shed at 1 p.m. Free BBQ will be served after the ride.

Goal of the benefit is \$5

plus a new toy per person. In event of rain the event will be held Nov. 18 at the same time.

Crimson Rose Band will provide music.

The route: 114 Camelot Court, right onto Phifer Road, right onto Bethlehem Road, left on 74 westbound, right on DeKalb Street, right onto E. Marion St., left onto Borders Road, right onto Oak Grove Road, right onto Stoney Point Road, straight

onto 74W to King St., right onto York Rd., right onto E. Gold St., left onto South Battleground Ave., left onto KM Blvd., stay straight on Dixon School Rd., right onto Military Road, right onto 29 South, left onto S. Battleground Ave., left onto KM Blvd., left onto Phifer Road, right onto Camelot Court and end of the run where barbecue will be served with all the trimmings.

## Thanksgiving services

Three pre-Thanksgiving services are planned in the Kings Mountain area next week.

The annual Kings Mountain Community Thanksgiving service will be held Nov. 20 with a pre-service concert at 6:45 p.m. and the worship service at 7 p.m. at Penley's Chapel Church, 1508 Hwy 216 North.

Rev. Marty Ramey, pastor of Advent Lutheran Church, will deliver the message and special music will be by the Penley's Chapel Singers. The public is invited.

The annual Grover Community Thanksgiving service will be held Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Baptist Church, 116 Poplar Drive, in Grover. The Grover Elementary Choir will present special music and Pastor Ron Hawkins of Carolina Praise and Worship Center will deliver the message, "Togetherness in Thankfulness." Rev. William Thompson, host pastor, invites the public.

A New Beginning Church, Dixon School Road, will host a pre-Thanksgiving service Wednesday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church, Dixon School Road. Dixon Pastor Randy Patterson will deliver the message. Special music will be presented. The public is invited.

## Grill sold!

Robert Bolin, Kings Mountain businessman and entrepreneur, has purchased Battleground Restaurant & Grill.

Bolin announced that, in the coming weeks, he plans to relocate 238 Cherokee Restaurant to Battleground Restaurant. The former 238 building will become an Asian fusion restaurant which combines Asian flavors and a wide variety of cuisine. Plans for a sushi bar are also in the works for the 238 location.

The current employees of 238 Cherokee will comprise the staff of the new Battleground Grill. Bolin expects

See SOLD, 6A



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