



## VETERANS': observance set for November 11

From page 1A

"The City was originally approached over a year ago by an informal group of local Vietnam veterans who wanted to have a memorial dedicated to those soldiers from Kings Mountain who were killed in action in Vietnam. We realized there was no memorial for any of our

local heroes who gave their lives in battle to preserve our freedoms. We found a design where we could incorporate the names all the heroes in a memorial, the Patriots' Memorial." Said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

All veterans are invited to be part of the observance. There will be limited seating in front of the stage and par-

ticipants are encouraged to bring portable chairs. Parking will be available at the park. In the event of rain, the program will be moved inside to the Joy Performance Center.

Two veterans groups - Otis D. Green American Legion Post 155 and Kings Mountain Veterans of Foreign Pbst 9811 - will host

events for veterans and their families following the 11 a.m. Veterans Day service at Patriots Park.

The American Legion will serve hotdogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings at the Post. The Kings Mountain Police Color Guard will present the colors. "Southern Experience" will play for the singing of

## Schedule of Events

Prelude - Loch Norman Pipe Band	
Welcome - Mayor Rick Murphrey	11:44
Posting of Colors - VFW Post 9488 Color Guard	11:52
Invocation - KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor	12:07
Pledge of Allegiance - Boy Scout Troop 193, Central United Methodist Church	12:09
"National Anthem" - Sophia Kellstrom, Jr. Teen Miss North Carolina	12:18
Introduction of Special Guests and Opening Remarks - Mayor Rick Murphrey	12:28
Veteran's Day Address - John F. Gwizdak, Past National VFW Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars	12:32
Interlude - Loch Norman Pipe Band	12:37
Dedication of Kings Mountain Patriots' Memorial and WWI Wall - Mayor Murphrey	12:43
Unveiling of Monument	12:53
Presentation of White Roses - Kings Mountain Vietnam Veterans	12:57
"God Bless America" - Molora	13:01
Moment of Silence - Mayor Rick Murphrey	13:08
"Amazing Grace" - Loch Norman Pipe Band	13:10
21 Gun Salute - VFW Post 9488 Color Guard	13:12
Wreath Presentation - Mayor Rick Murphrey, John Gwizdak	13:17
"Taps" - Paul Fulton	13:27
Retrieval of Colors - VFW Post 9488 Color Guard	13:32
Closing Comments - Mayor Rick Murphrey	13:37
Postlude - Loch Norman Pipe Band	13:40

The National Anthem and Mayor Rick Murphrey will be guest speaker. Patriotic music and flags and fall flowers will decorate the ballroom.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9811 will serve spaghetti with all the trimmings from noon until 3 p.m. Kenny Cordle is chef for the event.

## Veteran looks back on POWs, life as an MP

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

The draft letter that arrived in the mail in the spring of 1942 suited J.B. Stacey just fine.

"I was excited," he said, referring to the prospect of becoming a soldier. "I was kind of curious what it was all about. I wanted to join the Navy but they said 'no, the army's got you now.'"

At Fort Ord in Monterey, California, the 26-year-old Gaston County native learned to be a military police officer, along with the 60 or so men in his company who had all been selected for the specialized education.

"Back then with the war on, the little guys like me didn't get shipped out to the war," said Stacey from his comfortable room at Summit Place, an assisted living facility on Phifer Rd. They trained us to become MPs. It was the big ones they trained for combat."

In fact, Stacey's destiny was to stay on U.S. soil for the duration of the long war that saw more than 400,000 Americans killed by its end in 1945. During most of his time in the service, he worked as an MP on bases in Illinois, Texas and California where he helped guard Axis POWs and at other times helped keep the American men on the bases in order, meting out discipline when necessary, processing court-martials and chasing down AWOLs.

As far as the POWs went, he doesn't recall getting to know any of them very much, but he says conditions were good for them. "We



J.B. Stacey holds up a 1942 group photograph of the men he served with in basic training.

treated them like they was human beings," Stacey said. "There was no harsh treatment, and they didn't cause any trouble."

Regular soldiers were sometimes a different matter.

"Oh, shoot, you ought to see 'em," he said, with a laugh. "They'd be dog drunk. We'd have to round 'em up and get 'em into bed. They were just boys, I guess. But that was a big part of my job in the service ... keeping those streets clean on the bases where the men trained."

Stacey, who has bright, animated eyes and wears a thinning shock of reddish hair, turned 93 this year. He says Veterans' Day always brings back a lot of memories of those days in basic training ("It wasn't too awful bad") and the lifelong friends he made there and at

other posts during his four-year stint in the Army. He gave up his car years ago ("too expensive - I don't miss it one bit"), but holds on to an extreme wide-angle photograph of his basic training company.

Stacey got a taste for police work in the Army and said he intended to join a local police force and make a career out of it upon leaving the military. But when he was discharged in 1946, he had an abrupt change of heart.

"It felt so good to not be doing it, I just said I won't do it."

Casting about for a job for a few weeks after leaving the Army, he quickly found one that he both loved

and thrived at. "I sold used cars," he said "I did pretty good - I kept 'em going."

By the early 1950s, with a wife and a child and two more coming, Stacey decided it was time for a change and took a job at the Margrace Mill in Kings Mountain. He worked there for nearly three decades, working his way up to the top job in the sewing department.

During this time, Stacey recalls his and his late wife's love of traveling. "We would get in the car and drive all night," to Florida, to Ohio and Kentucky. "We had fun. We loved to just go. I may have gotten that from the Army. They were always shipping me all over."

## Gateway Trail anniversary this weekend

Live music, golf-cart rides and good food are all part of a party Saturday celebrating the popular and growing Kings Mountain Gateway Trail.

The festivities start at 11 a.m., when visitors are free to explore the park and trails and join in a dedication at the trailhead for having just become a National Recreation Trail designated by the National Park Service. The Gateway Trail is one of only 28 in the country and the only one in North Carolina to enjoy that distinction.

Adam Satterfield will be performing on keyboard from 11 a.m. to noon. The local band Harvest is then set to play from noon to 1 p.m.

After a hot dog and hamburger lunch, organizers will usher visitors to the top of the trail for a dedication of Hamrick Overlook, which features a bench built in honor of donors Evelyn and Larry Hamrick, Sr. Golf carts are

available for those who may be unable to make the steep climb.

Kings Mountain Gateway Trail director Shirley Brutko helped spearhead the construction and the funding of the trail, which is designed to eventually connect the City of Kings Mountain to Crowders Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain National Military Park, the Overmountain Victory Trail and the Appalachian Trail. The trail is open from dawn to dusk and is part of the Carolina Thread Trail, the Rails to Trails for N.C. and a National Recreation Trail for the U.S.

"Over the years, we've received over a million dollars in grants," Brutko said. "And we have almost a million dollars worth of land so far."

For more information about the trail visit <http://www.kmgateway-trails.org/Home.aspx>.

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**Kings Mountain Weekend Weather**

Thursday November 7	Friday November 8	Saturday November 9	Sunday November 10
Showers - 67°	Sunny - 59°	Sunny - 62°	Sunny - 65°
40% Chance of precipitation	0% Chance of precipitation	0% Chance of precipitation	0% Chance of precipitation
Night time Low 35°	Night time Low 33°	Night time Low 37°	Night time Low 38°

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## Transfer Tour at CCC Nov. 6

The NC Community College Transfer Tour is making a stop on the Cleveland Community College campus Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 8:30-10 a.m. in the Student Activities Center.

Representatives from the following colleges and universities will be on hand to answer students' questions about college transfer: Art Institute of Charlotte, Fayetteville State University, Gardner-Webb University, Lees-McRae College, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Montreat College, Pfeiffer University UNC Asheville, UNC Charlotte and UNC Pembroke. This event is free and open to the public.