



Jim Medlin gives the "Toast to the Flag," in which veterans are honored for their courage and sacrifice. Photo by DAVE BLANTON

To care for him who shall have borne the battle and to his widow and his orphan
 — President Abraham Lincoln

Soldier's family needs help should be our priority: Ruff

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"When people think about supporting the veteran they often forget the family. The family of the soldier needs your help too," said retired Sgt. Major Abe Ruff, a 20 year Vietnam veteran with the Army who also served with Special Forces as a Green Beret, who was the keynote speaker at a Veterans Day service Tuesday morning at Patriots Park in Kings Mountain.

Ruff interspersed his remarks with suggestions on how to support the soldier and his family. "Shake a veteran's hand today and thank him for his sacrifices, send a soldier overseas a care package, one big enough to share with his unit, and contact local veterans groups to get the name of a soldier and write to him.

He stressed the veteran's needs when he said the suicide rate for veterans 50 and over has drastically increased with an average of

22 veterans who take their own lives every day. "They need someone to care for them."

"And, you don't have to go somewhere else to help a veteran, you can start today right here at home," as he mentioned American Legion Post and Auxiliary 155 and Veterans of Foreign Wars 9811 who sponsor numerous projects for veterans and their families.

Ruff noted that Vietnam-era soldiers didn't receive a warm "welcome home" and he encouraged local people to let young soldiers returning home from duty know that you appreciate their sacrifices.

Ruff said he knows from his experience in Uncle Sam's Army that the soldier leaves his wife and family at home for long periods of time. As a Green Beret, his family saw him 11 days in a seven month period when he trained with the Greek, French and Iranian Armies. "Being a military wife is a hard job," he said, com-

mending his wife, June, to whom he has been married 50 years.

The audience at the service sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain included numerous local veterans and their families.

Mayor Rick Murphrey was master of ceremonies. In his opening remarks, he said that "America is as strong as its people. We are caretakers of all that our forefathers fought for."

"Veterans have always answered the call to defend and secure our freedom, no matter the cost. Today, we honor that same spirit and hope, which led to the founding of this great nation. Veterans fought for our freedom a freedom secured and defended with honor, loyalty and personal courage."

Adding to the ceremony was music by the Loch Norman Pipe Band, the "Toast to the Flag" by Vietnam veteran Jim Medlin, who held the flag and talked about the red, white and blue, reflecting that the blue stands for being true and constant and the whole of it are the stars and stripes. The National anthem rendered was sung by Sophia Kellstrom,

Grand Majestic Miss North Carolina and "God Bless America" by Kellstrom and her mother, Molora, and grandmother, Mrs. Roger Woodard.

The Kings Mountain Police Color Guard, under the direction of Sgt. Bob Myers, posted and retired the colors, Boy Scouts from Troop 193 of Central United Methodist Church, led the pledge of allegiance, KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor offered the invocation, praising God for a glorious day to honor those living veterans who were willing to stand up for the red, white and blue.

The mayor recognized Kelsy Goody Powers, Miss Poppy from the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 155 Commander Curtis Thrift who read the list of names on the four memorials in Patriots Park and veterans representing World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam presented white roses at the base of the memorial wall.

The mayor, assisted by Ruff, placed a red, white and blue wreath at the memorial.

Bugler Paul Fulton played "Taps" to conclude the patriotic service.



Sarah Fox has the lead role of Junie B. Jones in the KMLT children's play at Joy Theatre Friday and Saturday.



Sarah Fox and Lexie Wright

KMLT: Children's play Friday, Saturday

From 1A

you-know-who what she deserves?

Directors promise a hilarious and endearing tale based on the best-selling book by Barbara Park. The cast includes Sarah Fox, Ashlee Hamrick, Chris Stone, Nick Howell, Carver Thompson, John Randall, Ely Thompson, Sophia Kellstrom, Mary Jarrett, Anna Price, and Lexi Wright. The technical crew includes Carolina and Ana Faith Allen, Cody Lavender, Katie Stone and Daniel Fox.

Transfers: state school grades occupy school board meeting

From Page 1A

of students consistently do better than schools drawing from populations of higher relative poverty," read a passage from the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Board members were joined by Fisher in also arguing that the proposed grading system "under-emphasizes gains in yearly growth (i.e. what a child learns in a year) by a weight of 20 percent, while disproportionately emphasizing performance on standardized tests a weight of 80 percent."

Cleveland County falls below the state's average income per household level. Board members said their hope was that enough other school districts in the state would issue similar resolutions in the hopes that state education leaders and members of the General Assembly would take a different course.

In other resolution directed at state-level education policy makers and at state lawmakers, the board unanimously signed off on a resolution that strongly supported local control of school calendars.

The current calendar law, the resolution states, is disruptive for several reasons, including the fact that spring college courses begin before January final exams at the high school

level are administered. The resolution also draws a bead on the N.C. public schools calendar law because it "limits the number of days that can be scheduled as inclement weather days, increasing the likelihood of unpopular days like the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, spring break and Saturdays being used as make-up days."

The blanket enforcement of a uniform school calendar has led to a decrease in the amount of instructional time students have prior to taking Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests. In the public participation segment of Monday's meeting, the board heard from Cleveland County Sheriff Alan Norman, who asked that the school district consider directing funds to the local D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), which primarily serves public schools.

He said the county is presently using a donated 2004 vehicle that has accumulated more than 135,000 miles in its service to county's schools. D.A.R.E. is operated through a partnership between local public schools and local law enforcement.

The board said it would investigate the need for support to the D.A.R.E. program on an administrative level.

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| Bombay Chest | Pottery | Costume Jewelry |
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| Depression Glass | Trunks | Oil Lamps |
| Christmas Décor (lots) | 1950's School Albums | Wall Accents |
| Spindle Bed | Hummel Items | Accent Pillows |
| Cut Crystal | Victorian Figurines | Accent Tables & Chairs |
| Christmas Sleds | Fabric (loads of styles) | |
| Homer Laughlin | Nesting Hens | |
| Pressed Glass | Bronze Statue | |

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