

Opinions♦♦♦

Yours, Ours, Others

"Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out."

-John Wooden

Campaign continues to send Vets to Wall

Vietnam Veterans will remember fallen at War Memorial

(Ed. Note - Jim Medlin along with the Kings Mountain Vietnam Veterans are sponsoring a campaign to help some Vietnam veterans go to Washington, DC to see the Vietnam Memorial. Individuals and/or clubs interested in sponsoring a veteran can call Medlin at 828/443-7933, or Grindstaff at 704/739-6964.)

THE WALL

By Abraham Ruff

My name is Abraham Ruff and yes, I served in Viet Nam. You may have read some of the many articles that have been published in the Herald about my military service so I don't want to talk about me.

I would like to talk about the Viet Nam Wall which I will just call the "Wall". The "Wall" has over 58,000 names of those that gave it all. Those of us that came home will never forget our friends whose names are on the "Wall". When we go to see the "Wall" some of us may not be able to look at the "Wall". Some of us may have trouble looking at the names of our friends on the "Wall". Just writing this article brings back memories that I have tried to forget, so I'm not sure how I will feel when I can actually see the names of my comrades on the "Wall".

I really don't like to talk about some of the things I had to do while in Viet Nam. I think that is pretty common for anyone that served in combat. I often hear things like; "my grandfather was in World War II but he doesn't talk about it", or "my uncle was wounded in Viet Nam but we did not find out about it until

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ABE RUFF



ABE RUFF
Green Beret

SPONSOR A VIET NAM VET

By Ralph Grindstaff

I too am a Vietnam Veteran having served two tours of duty in a combat zone with the U.S. Navy during this unpopular but necessary war. I was in Vietnam in 1966 until early 1967 and ordered back in late 1967 until early 1968. I was aboard two separate ships that were severely hit by North Vietnamese counter batteries and small artillery fire. We were on patrol off the shore lines and river ways of both South and North Vietnam destroying enemy water craft, disrupting North Vietnamese supply lines, and giving gunfire support to our ground troops. This was a time long ago, but never forgotten by us. I, as others, lost friends from our hometowns that were killed while fighting in Vietnam as well as friends we made during our service time together. In short, I want to ask you to sponsor a Vietnam Vet so that we can all travel to Washington D.C. together to visit our friends who never came home with us, but are forever remembered on THE WALL. We have approximately 80 Vietnam Veterans in our Kings Mountain group. Some can afford the cost of the trip and others can't. The cost is \$250.00 per Veteran to make the trip. If any citizen or organization would like to donate any amount to this worthy cause please contact either Jim Medlin at 828-443-7933 or Ralph Grindstaff at 704-739-6964. This trip will make a difference for all of us that served during this time of our young lives. Your consideration will be greatly appreciated by all.

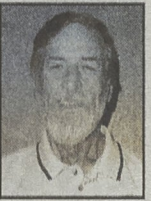


RALPH GRINDSTAFF

MY STORY IN VIETNAM

by Richard Bolin

(Richard Bolin is a retired truck driver and has lived his entire life in Kings Mountain. He is proud of his town, his country and his military service.)



RICHARD BOLIN

This is about my personal experience in Vietnam. I graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1965 and went into the Army in, August 3, 1965. I trained at Fort Jackson, SC until December 1965. I had Basic training there as well and AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) and Special Weapons—we trained, and trained, and then we trained some more.

When Basic and AIT were completed, I was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington for, yes, even more training. Along with all the training, we also had to pull guard duty on the unit mascot which was a black panther. I was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division and, as you might gather, we were going as a unit to Vietnam. We departed the states on July 22, 1966 and arrived in country Vietnam on August 10, 1966. We made the three week trip aboard a troop ship named the General John J. Pope. From the cramped bunks to the terrible food it was one experience I will never forget. One of the soldiers on board had a pet monkey and

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Remembering Eric Wright

ELIZABETH STEWART
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Eric Wright loved life and he loved to sing.

His unexpected death at the age of 51 removed from the community a multi-talented man always interested in others, a tribute to the longtime funeral director.

Some people can remember Eric as a hair stylist downtown and that talent, as well as his amazing singing voice, was an asset to fami-



ERIC WRIGHT

lies he served through his profession at Harris Funeral Home, where he was hired as a young man over 28 years ago.

His co-workers and extended family at the funeral home can attest to his professionalism and his dependability as well as other traits that endeared him to many.

As one of his friends remarked, "He's probably singing today with the Heavenly choir."

The Herald joins in extending sincere sympathy to Eric's family, his many friends and his extended family at Harris Funeral Home.

We are all much better people because Eric came our way.

Looking back

From the Aug. 16, 1991 files of The Kings Mountain Herald

Four more people filed for city council as the filing deadline passed Friday bringing to 16 the number of candidates who seek five seats at city hall in the October 1991 municipal election.

In Ward 1, Roosevelt Ingram made it a three-way race for the newly-created minority seat. Filing previously were Fortee Gamble and Philip Hager.

In Ward 2, Jim Guyton made it a four-man race for the position, challenging incumbent Jackie Dean Barrett, Jeff Gregory and Roy Pearson.

For the two At-large seats on the board Jerry Mullinax and Shirley Brutko made it a six-way race joining Luther

Bennett and Joe King who want to unseat commissioners Al Moretz and Norma Bridges.

The mayor's race brought no new candidates. Former commissioner Jim Childers, Scott Neisler and Gilbert Hamrick seek the post being held by Mayor Kyle Smith, who did not seek reelection.

The Kings Mountain Herald will sponsor a public forum for city council and school board candidates on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m., at B. N. Barnes Auditorium. All candidates running for political office in Kings Mountain will be invited and will respond to questions submitted from the general public. Local realtor Jerry King will moderate the meeting.

Between a rock and a hard place

The continuance of efforts to keep a proposed casino in Kings Mountain in the spotlight, aided by the news media is the same to me as slowly shredding the wisdom of what is right and good.

Efforts to put a known name like Hard Rock to the proposed casino is, in my opinion, just another way of trying to make a gambling joint seem more acceptable. I echo what Adam Forcade of the Kings Mountain Awareness Group said; branding a



Beauford Burton

casino doesn't change it's detriment to society.

Actually, if the casino comes here we will be between a "rock" and a "hard" place.

Those of us who have, for whatever reason, survived gambling and have learned from the experience are the most qualified to warn of the effects it can and will have on individuals, families, and communities.

The latest news articles See BETWEEN, Page 7A

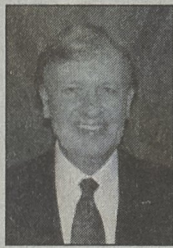
Health Happy in America

Medical care is a lifelong necessity to a happy normal life.

Here are the solutions to solving the medical care crisis in our country.

Put the very poor and disabled on Medicaid. Essentially that is where they are now.

Allow those with preexisting conditions to buy into Medicare. If they are making just above the poverty rate then give them a financial break. Most people with a preexisting condition do not mind paying. They simply want some



Glenn Mollette
Guest Editorial

health insurance.

Next, allow the working people to have their insurance through their employers or buy insurance from any state in America. We need more competitive insurance carriers in the market.

The cost of prescription drugs is killing some Americans faster than their diseases. We commonly hear television stories about people going bankrupt because of cancer treatments. It's time for us to Partner with Canada in an International prescription agreement. Our food and drug administration with Canada's partnership could authorize safe drug houses for us to purchase our prescriptions. If

you don't mind traveling to Mexico you can already walk into their pharmacies and buy what you want. We need some type of North American Drug Deal that helps sick people buy medicine cost effectively and safely.

Emphasize and fund our county health clinics. Keep nurses on staff who can treat people with basic issues such as viruses and hand out birth control to women and men. Provide care for pregnant women by offering free ultrasounds. The health clinics must have access to our public schools. Representatives should be visiting the schools teaching prevention to at least all

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Moving in day

Dad doesn't love moving; he just loves you

It's college "move-in" season. Those few days where smiling kids pile way too much stuff in family cars and trucks and head off to school.

Believe me, this Dad knows it's coming. It's that day of the year (besides "move-out" day) where my value is judged on how much stuff I can haul from the truck to the third-floor dorm room - especially when the elevator only works sporadically.

Like all Dads, there are



RANDY WHEELLESS

obvious questions you ask as you survey the load, like: "How much stuff do you really need? Isn't technology supposed to make things more compact?"

While it's true that bulky stereo systems, speakers and crates of vinyl record albums have been replaced by sleek, ultra-light laptops, smart phones and tablets, the flipside is the increase in dorm décor. Squashy beanbag chairs have been usurped by stylish futons, and worse yet, full-sized living-room sofas.

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Kings Mountain HERALD

Published every Wednesday • USPS 931-040 by CF Media • Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Office: 700 East Gold Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086 • Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Postmaster, send address changes to: P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Annual mail subscription rates. Prices include 6.75% NC State Sales Tax
Gaston & Cleveland Counties \$30 • Other NC Counties \$35 • Outside NC \$50

Published by
Community First Media, Inc.
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Sports Editor: Gary Stewart - Staff Writer: Dave Blanton
General Operations Manager: Duane Heafner
Advertising Representatives:
Mark Blanton - Annie Jenkins
Greg Ledford - Duane Heafner - Sam Brackett
Mayra Littman - Scott Helms - Mike Marlow

Circulation/Classified: Kathy Reynolds

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