

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

(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, or Bolin at 704/739-8639.)

by Jim Medlin

From the President of the United States, "As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and

rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

"As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots—their names etched in black granite—who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war..."

For me personally it seems like a dream since Vietnam and I came home in April of 1970. A day doesn't go by that I don't think of my experiences while serving in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. As mentioned in previous writings each month the Kings Mountain Vietnam Veterans meet for breakfast. For many of us we don't talk about the war but we talk about our families and how,

individually, we are doing and how we can help and support one another—friend to friend, brother to brother, comrade to comrade. From our eyes we don't see color of skin, ethnicity, North or South, officer or enlisted, we just see and visit with a friend, a buddy, a patriot of our country who honored our flag and all it stands for in the world.

With the Herald articles that have gone before this writing we have tried to draw a picture of who we are and the experiences we encountered—air, sea and land. Those few writings are but just a drop in the bucket as to what really happened in Vietnam. We hope you have an idea of what your young men of Kings Mountain and surrounding communities encountered; and moreover, are living and reliving in minds that will not heal, those experiences each and every day. But more importantly, and more precious,

we came home to live our lives and raise our children in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

Now, our assignment is to travel to the Wall in Washington D.C. That could and will be a difficult visit—it will bring back memories that many of us have tried to forget—but it will also re-ignite the remembrance of a brotherhood of comrades in arms. And also allow us to visit our friends who didn't come home, whose names are etched on that wall of cold black granite, and who will be "forever young."

The City of Kings Mountain along with the Federal Government and communities, local governments have partnered to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. As time goes forward you will see programs in progress as to the commemoration. Please take time to be a part of these efforts of celebration. It is important.



Vietnam Veteran Jim Medlin, above, holds a plaque with the names of 87 Kings Mountain Vietnam veterans, five of whom are deceased. He presented plaques to each Kings Mountain Vietnam veteran. Medlin is chairman of a fund-raising effort to send a bus load of Vietnam veterans to Washington, DC to see the Vietnam Wall.

East School student named 2015 Shrine King



A Shriner gets a comment from Sean Ayden McCurry, an East Elementary student, upon being crowned 2015 Shrine King. At left is Shrine Queen Alyssa Madyson Mosteller, who is from Vale. The two were honored last week at dirt-track race in Gastonia sponsored by the Shriners. Photo by MARK BLANTON

A Kings Mountain boy has been named the 2015 Shrine King. Sean Ayden McCurry, a rising second grader at East Elementary, was honored at the 43rd Annual Shrine 100 Race last Tuesday.

He joins Alyssa Madyson Mosteller, a rising second grader at Vale's

North Brook Elementary, who was named the year's queen.

McCurry, the son of Michael McCurry and Jessica Crawford, has a brother and two sisters. He was born with spastic dysplasia, which is a form of cerebral palsy. He has been a patient at Shriners Hospital since

2011. McCurry loves cars, baseball, riding the four wheeler, going to school and playing with friends. The family attends Second Baptist Church in Kings Mountain.

Mosteller has scoliosis, and has been a patient at Shriners Hospital since 2012.

HONORS: at annual TD club dinner



The handsome, new Brinkley Fieldhouse at Kings Mountain High School, above, is a busy place for athletes. The Kings Mountain Touchdown Club held its traditional barbecue last Thursday and took the occasion to honor David and Marie Brinkley who led the mammoth fundraising effort for the facility and longtime sports writer Gary Stewart for his contribution to Mountaineer athletics by having the road through the campus named Gary Stewart Boulevard.

From Page 1A

locker rooms, training rooms, trophy room, film room, laundry rooms, private showers, and offices for the school's athletic director, coaches and trainers.

"You are all a part of this building," Brinkley told the audience, adding that only about \$40,000 of an original \$900,000 loan still remains. "We appreciate your help and we'll never forget you."

Others echoed that spirit of giving and cooperation.

"This facility is a testament to the unparalleled cooperation we see in the Kings Mountain community," said Cleveland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher. "It's a model for others to follow."

KMHS athletics officials joined Brinkley in honoring Gary Stewart, retired Kings Mountain Herald editor who covered varsity sports in the city for 50 years. The school board in the spring voted to rename a road

that cuts through the high school's campus and connects to the Kings Mountain Middle School Gary Stewart Blvd.

In other Touchdown Club news, Brinkley said that plans for a new and expanded concession stand are expected to be ready in about two weeks.

The barbecue catering for the event was provided by Cookin' Maniacs.

The Mountaineers face North Gaston at home in the season opener Aug. 21.

Congressman McHenry to tour local industry here Wednesday

10th District Congressman Patrick McHenry (NC-10), the Chief Deputy Whip, announced today that he will be in Cleveland County on Wednesday, August 19th for five visits across the county. Following his visits, Congressman McHenry will host a town hall meeting for Cleveland County residents.

Congressman



McHENRY

McHenry will begin his day at 8:30 a.m. by visiting STEAG Energy Services. During the visit Congressman McHenry will tour STEAG's facilities which relocated to Cleveland County in 2007. STEAG Energy Services is located at 304 Linwood Road in Kings Mountain.

At 10 a.m. Congressman McHenry will pres-

ent a TRIO grant check to Cleveland Community College. The grant check will be used by Cleveland Community College to provide academic and support services to low-income, first-generation, or disabled students. The presentation will take place at Cleveland Community College located at 137 South Post Road in Shelby.

At 11:30 a.m. Congressman McHenry will join the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce for its Congressional Luncheon. Congressman McHenry will provide attendees with an update on his work in Washington and take questions. The Chamber luncheon will take place at the Cleveland Country Club located at 1360 East Marion Street in Shelby.

At 3 p.m. Congressman McHenry will recognize the Shelby Police Department's capture of Charleston shooter Dylann Roof by presenting an Ameri-

can flag flown above the U.S. Capitol to the department. Congressman McHenry will present the flag to Shelby PD Chief Jeff Ledford. Shelby. The presentation will take place in the City Council Chambers of Shelby City Hall located at 300 South Washington Street in Shelby.

At 4 p.m. Congressman McHenry will visit Newgrass Brewing Company. While there he will be led on a tour of the new facility with owner and brewmaster Lewis McCallister on Washington Street in Shelby.

Harris Funeral Home, Inc.

Full Service Funeral Home & Cremation Services Since 1947

Funeral Directors

- Ronald Hawkins
41 years with Harris Funeral Home
- Bradley Ellis
21 years with Harris Funeral Home
- Monty Thornburg
17 years with Harris Funeral Home
- In Remembrance of Eric Wright
28 years with Harris Funeral Home



In this, your time of need, we at Harris Funeral Home guarantee superior service at the best price. Our funeral professionals are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have been a part of this community for over 67 years, serving families of every financial situation with Respect and Dignity. We are Kings Mountain owned and operated with a dedication in giving back to our community. We offer the most experienced staff with a dedication to all of our friends and neighbors.

108 South Piedmont Ave., Kings Mountain ~ Phone – 704-739-2591 • Fax – 704-739-7601

Obituaries and condolences online at www.harrisfunerals.com

County commission to meet Sept. 1

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners will meet Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 6 p.m. at the Charles F. Harry administrative building in Shelby. The August 25 meeting was rescheduled.

Library Dive In Friday

Mauney Memorial Library will sponsor a dive-in and movie by the pool at the Kings Mountain Family YMCA Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 6 p.m. and enjoy the movie at dusk. The YMCA will provide life-guards for the event.