

Wadesboro Civitan Club Responds to Lillie Bennett Notice

The Wadesboro Civitan Club issued this response to the recently announced sale or lease of the Lillie Bennett Nursing Center: This is a resolution of the Wadesboro Civitan Club concerning the Lillie Bennett Nursing Center in Wadesboro, NC. The notice of the public hearing to be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 31 in the private dining room of the Anson Community Hospital has drawn the interest and concern of the Wadesboro Civitan Club. The Wadesboro Civitan Club is responding with the following:
The Wadesboro Civitan Club recognizes the importance of the Lillie Bennett Nursing Center. Lillie Bennett is home to 90 or more residents, it employs many skilled professionals, and it is essential to our community. The Wadesboro Civitan Club asks Carolinas HealthCare System to do everything it can to ensure that Lillie Bennett Nursing Center continues to operate in Anson County. Lillie Bennett is an asset and is vital to our community.

Sen. McLaurin Works with Amvets to Support Troops



From left, Mary O'Neal, Sen. Gene McLaurin and Ed O'Neal.

Members of a US Army Airborne unit at Fort Bragg are leaving soon for a tour of duty in Afghanistan with a gift from AMVETS Post 316 Ladies Auxiliary in Richmond County. "With them will go 500 prepaid phone cards as a reminder of support back home," said Mary O'Neal, president of the AMVETS Auxiliary Department of North Carolina. Ed O'Neal, a retired Command Sergeant Major at Ft. Bragg, and Mary were able - with Sen. Gene McLaurin's assistance - to obtain the cards through the AMVETS National Office. Ed is a former NC AMVETS Department Commander. Included in their visit to Fort Bragg Tuesday was also a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fisher House, a home for families of service personnel receiving treatment at Fort Bragg medical facilities. Post 316 Ladies Auxiliary has for many years been supporting the present Fisher House at Fort Bragg with gifts of household items and food. Mary O'Neal is also president of AMVETS Post 316 Ladies Auxiliary in Richmond County and accepted a donation from McLaurin for Auxiliary work with veterans in local healthcare facilities, veterans in VA hospitals, and active duty troops in military medical facilities at Fort Bragg. With the cards, McLaurin sent a letter thanking soldiers for their service to America, saying, "The freedom we enjoy each day is due to your courage, dedication and commitment. We are so grateful to each of you. We look forward to your return after your deployment. Please make good use of these calling cards provided by AMVETS. May God bless you in your service to our country." O'Neal said McLaurin has for many years supported local veterans when called upon. "As Mayor of Rockingham and as a NC Senator Gene McLaurin has continued his concern for veterans," O'Neal said. When he was mayor McLaurin presented local Army National Guard units with a flag of the City of Rockingham to fly at a forward operating base in their combat area. The flag was returned to the city on their safe return it was framed and given a place of honor at Rockingham City Hall.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebrated at BRLC

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center volunteers and friends celebrated the Martin Luther King Holiday recently. BRLC celebrated *Moving Forward* to fulfill Dr. King's dream. Chelesa Thomas did a great job as she registered all guests who attended. Youth participation consisted of Jeremy Sikes - Mister of Ceremonies; Mitchel Liles - Pledge of Allegiance; Nathan Sikes - pledge allegiance to the Christian flag; and Alton Jackson - Recited the 23 psalm. The 'I have a Dream' speech was done in part by Allen Jackson and Victor Medley. Winnie Daniel and Louise Caudle also helped with the spiritual part of the event. Retired Colonel Nancy Henderson from the US Air Force Nurse Corp spoke to the audience on the impact that the Civil Rights movement had on her life as a military nurse. Anson County Clerk of Court Mark Hammond spoke to the audience on the non-violence that the Civil Rights movement made. Has the nation lowered the non-violence flag or is it still lifted high? Would Dr. King say we are moving forward or not? Mrs. Sara Thomas and Mr. Delma Ingram gave thanks to the two wonderful speakers. Then the audience was given an opportunity to give brief remarks. Lunch which consisted of homemade chili beans, homemade beef stew, crackers, deserts and beverages. It was prepared by Mary Hammond and Carol Smith. Volunteer servers were Jemery Sikes, Nathan Sikes, Eyanni Polk, Antoinette Thomas and Mary Hammond. Pictured below, from left are Victor Medley, Jemery Sikes, Nancy Henderson, Mark Hammond and Allen Jackson. Delma Ingram is in the back.

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