Repatriation of Pfc. Henry E. Ellis

More than 70 years after US Marine Private First Class Henry E. Ellis, was declared missing in action from the Korean War, his remains were safely returned home to his family in North Carolina.

On Monday, August 23, Governor Roy Cooper ordered United States and North Carolina flags at state facilities to be lowered to half-staff in honor of Pfc. Ellis, and all those who have fought for our country overseas and never returned home. On that same Monday, Secretary Gaskin joined the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. and United States Marine Corps, Combat Logistics Battalion 451, Charlotte, NC to honor Pfc. Ellis at his long-awaited funeral with full military honors.

Pictures from the arrival, motorcade, and funeral can be seen on our Flickr page at: https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWsmPYP

Secretary Walter Gaskin & the family of Pfc. Henry Ellis emotionally greet his arrival to Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

NCDMVA At Work

Secretary Gaskin’s Listening Tour Continues
Since being appointed Secretary of NCDMVA in January, Secretary Gaskin has embarked on a “Listening Tour,” visiting military installations, state veteran homes, and veteran service offices across the state to learn firsthand about the issues facing the installation members, and the health of veterans and their surrounding communities. In a recent visit to the North Carolina State Veteran Home in Salisbury, Secretary Gaskin, toured the partially renovated facility. He also talked with management and staff and the resident military veterans to thank them for helping to pave the way for veterans like him.

See more pictures from Secretary Gaskin’s visit at: https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWvSoFU

Secretary Walter Gaskin talks bedside to veteran, U.S Col. Peter Bent, a resident of NC State Veterans Home in Salisbury NC.

Montford Point Marine Commemoration

Secretary Gaskin was honored to join members of the National Montford Point Marine Association last week to commemorate the arrival of the first recruits to Camp Montford Point on August 26th, 1941.

Who is a Montford Point Marine?
They are the first African-Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps after President Franklin Roosevelt issues an Executive Order establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission in June 1941. The recruits trained at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, NC. The largest number of black Marines to serve in combat during WW II took part in the seizure of Okinawa, with approximately 2,000 seeing action.

DMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin alongside Montford Point Marine National President James T. Averhart, Jr.

North Carolina Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veteran
The DMVA scholarship program has awarded 439 scholarships in 2021. The program was created to show its appreciation for the services and sacrifices of its war veterans, and is reserved for students of deceased, disabled, combat, or POW/MIA veterans. The scholarship is for eight academic semesters and the recipient has eight years to utilize the money. Applicants must be under the age of 25 at the time of application and a resident of the state. The veteran’s qualifying criteria must have occurred during a period of war. Learn more about the NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans here.

DMVA Public Service Announcements

NC4ME 60-Day Campaign to "Honor our Veterans by Hiring a Veteran"

Twenty years after the events of 9/11, NC4ME is once again challenging employers across North Carolina to hire the veterans, who have so valiantly guarded our freedoms. DMVA, Lowe’s, the Carolina Panthers, Dominion Energy, Truist, and others are launching a 60-day veteran hiring campaign on Friday, September 10. It is geared towards making employers in our state understand the leadership, and added value that veterans can bring to their teams, and organizations. NC4ME is a long time partner of the NC Department of Military and Veteran Affairs and we look forward to working with them to keep our military veterans, and families, right here in NC.

Follow NC4ME and DMVA via Facebook for more on this campaign.
9/10 Day of Service  
VA National Cemeteries  
Friday, September 10, 2021

The National Cemetery Administration and Carry The Load are partnering at more than 60 VA national cemeteries across the nation on Friday, Sept. 10, with a national day of service to mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Come join us as we clean headstones and perform other tasks to beautify our national shrines and honor those who have served our country over the last 20 years.

For more information, visit https://www.cem.va.gov/National-Day-of-Service/

Register at https://www.carrytheload.org/.../SPageNa.../patriot_day.html

Don’t wait to vaccinate.

DON’T WAIT TO VACCINATE.

Find a vaccine location near you at MySpot.nc.gov or call 888-675-4567.

#MilVetsNC Leaderboard

With honor, in gratitude: our Leaderboard recognizes the impact of North Carolina’s military and Veterans community, and the individuals who work on behalf of those who have served.

A Veteran in Buncombe County is making a difference in his community.

Kevin Rumley, a Purple Heart recipient is the program
coordinator for Buncombe County Veteran's Treatment Court. The program supports veterans charged with misdemeanor or felony offenses, who are struggling with addiction or mental illness. There are only four programs of this nature in the entire state

**Read the Spectrum News 1 feature here.**

Kevin Rumley

**Nominate a Service Member, Veteran, or Advocate to be featured on the #MilVetsNC Leaderboard**

DMVA’s monthly #MilVetsNC Leaderboard feature is an opportunity to highlight NC service members, veterans, and those who work on their behalf.

It’s easy, all it takes is one (1) email to publisher@milvets.nc.gov with some background on why this veteran, service member or military veteran advocate should be featured. Please include 1-3 photos.

**Email subject:** #MilVetsNC Leaderboard Nomination

**Photo submission guidance:** The images must be larger than 200 kilobytes. If the photo is low resolution and/or grainy, it probably won’t work. Please include a photo caption for each photo. Include a general description detailing the context of the photo, names of those pictured, the event taking place, location and date.

**Save the Date**
North Carolina Observes 20th Anniversary of 9/11

Buncombe County Sheriff’s Honor Guard to Lead 9/11 Memorial Flag Raising Service at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery

On Friday, September 10 at 8:45 a.m., the Buncombe County Sheriff’s Honor Guard will raise an American Flag, flown during military missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery.

Airforce retiree and Buncombe County Sheriff’s Office SERV Unit Director Rafael Jimenez will lead the honor guard. During his tours of duty in Afghanistan, as a KC-135 refueling crew member, the American flags flown were returned to the US and given to those that supported the troops. Several flags never made the trip and Jimenez held on to them in hopes of someday being able to give them a good home.

The flag being raised at the cemetery will find a new home at the Western Carolina Veterans Museum in Brevard, NC, after it is lowered at the end of the day.

9/11 Events:

9/11, 9am - 20th Anniversary War on Terror Memorial Service - Raleigh
Capitol Monuments, 5 E. Edenton St. Raleigh, NC
Contact: Al Pasquale, USMC, pasqualeusmc@yahoo.com, 484-802-2516

9/11 HEROES RUN - Sept. 11th - 8:30 am - Raleigh/Durham
Jefferson L Suggs Farm Park
Website: 9/11 Heroes Run - Raleigh/Durham, NC (travismanion.org)

NC State University 9/11 Memorial Ceremony – Sept. 11th - 7 pm – Raleigh
Talley Student Union, Stewart Theatre
Website: 9/11 Memorial Ceremony - NC State University Calendar (ncsu.edu)
Where Were You? - SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL EVENT - Sept. 11th - 7:30 pm - FESTIVAL PARK
Rowan Street and Ray Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28301
Website: Where Were You - September 11th Memorial Event (visitfayettevillenc.com)

9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB – Sept. 11th - 8:30 am
Segra Stadium, 460 Hay Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301
Website: 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb (visitfayettevillenc.com)

9/11 Commemorative 5K Event – Sept. 11th - 8 am - City of Graham – City Hall Campus
201 South Main Street, Graham, NC
Website: 9/11 Commemorative 5K Event – City of Graham, NC

9/11 – 14th Annual Field of Honor @ 9am – 5pm
Website: https://www.cityviewnc.com/event/14th-annual-field-of-honor/ or https://www.facebook.com/events/27080331199181/

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- Sep 9 Funeral and Celebration of Life for Air Force Veteran Larry Gast, Charlotte
- Sep 9 Hire Heroes Employer Spotlight: Flyers Energy 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- Sep 9 WACC with Ambassador Ryan Crocker America’s troop withdrawal from Afghanistan
- Sep 10 2021 Triad Stand Down, Greensboro
- Sep 10-11 9/11 Day of Service, Fayetteville
- Sep 11 Patriot Day
Click [here](#) to visit our Events Page.

Submit your community calendar events to [Publisher@milvets.nc.gov](mailto:Publisher@milvets.nc.gov)

*Always include event name, event summary, date/time, location, RSVP details, and website(s).*

**OCTOBER EVENTS**

**Wayne County Stand Down**

**October 7, 2021**

Today, Stand Down refers to grassroot, community-based intervention programs designed to help the nation’s estimated 107,000 homeless veterans. Please join us for the [Wayne County Stand Down 2021](#) and spread the word to all veterans who have served and are located in Wayne County and the surrounding areas. [Find out more about this event here.](#)
The Hall of Firsts
October 9, 2021 (Postponed)

Due to a recent surge in Covid-19 cases, the 2021 North Carolina Military Hall of Firsts Inaugural Induction Ceremony has been postponed until Spring 2022. The accompanying exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History, featuring the 2021 Inductees, will be unveiled as planned on October 9, 2021. Please stay tuned for details!

Stay tuned for updates! Click here to learn more about the NC Military Hall of Firsts.

2021 NC Women MilVets Virtual Summit
Thursday, October 21, 2021, 9am – 12:30pm

Click here to sign up for the 2021 NC Women MilVets Virtual Summit!

This free, biennial event is aimed at empowering military and veteran women
Educate, Empower, Enrich: Emerging & Lighting the Way Forward

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) supports both active and reserve uniformed military personnel and their families; military installations and communities; and military veterans and their families in North Carolina. The Department seeks to provide timely and responsive engagement to enhance NC’s current military and veteran friendly environment. In addition, the Department also seeks to foster and promote business, technology, transportation, education, economic development, and healthcare for the above communities. Lastly, the Department works to accomplish these services by providing assistance and coordination between the Federal Government, the State of NC, its political subdivisions, and collaborative and supporting agencies.

Click [here](#) for more information on the NC 2021 Women MilVets Virtual Summit or contact [info@wmvse.org](mailto:info@wmvse.org).