



EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

The Fleetwood View

Your Online Newsletter

April 2007

SUMMARY

A VERY SPECIAL FLAG...

It waves proudly at Fleetwood

Read on



WE SALUTE A VERY SPECIAL FLAG

The Flag of the United States of America that now flies proudly over the Fleetwood Clubhouse is a story unto itself.

And, fittingly, it provides a daily reminder to those of us who live and visit here that war in a far-away land is not a remote conflict from which we are insulated.

To summarize:

Army Lt. Col. David Fee, son of Knight and Sally Fee (unit 1601), is a command Apache helicopter pilot, serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He sent the flag, which he had carried into combat, to his parents.

When word of its presence here got around, a cadre of “can-do” neighbors, given impetus by Dee Clarke, decided, in the words of Blondie Whitmire:

“Some of us wrote letters to David while he was over there and felt it was our patriotic duty to fly this flag until he comes home. We will be flying this special flag to show our love and support of David and all our troops who are fighting for our freedom.”

There followed an impressive flag-raising ceremony attended by the residents. It also drew the attention of the Hendersonville Times-News, who sent a reporter and photographer. Their work appeared on the front page of the Local and State section March 23 and caught the eye of a reader with a very special interest.

Now, as Paul Harvey would say, here is the rest of the story which is told in a letter to the Fees:

Dear Knight and Sally,

I read with great interest the article in the Times-News regarding your son and the flag at the Clubhouse at Fleetwood Plaza.

I thought that you would be interested in knowing that my husband, Raymond, (an Air Corps veteran) and I were the first residents at Fleetwood Plaza in 1983 and it was my husband who had the flagpole installed after the Clubhouse was built in 1985.

The first flag flown there was that of my father's, (a World War I veteran).

The second flag flown there was that of my brother's, (a World War II veteran).

Thereafter, the worn flags were replaced by my husband until we left Fleetwood in early 2000.

Further, until the spotlight was placed, he and a friend raised and lowered the flag every day.

So you must know how very much it means to me to know the origin of the flag now proudly being flown there.

It fills my heart with pride and I know how much it means to you to see it every day.

As I pray every day for the military, I will especially remember your son.

***Warmly,
Betty Parkinson***

Our longer-time residents will remember the Parkinson's who lived in unit 503 and were active in Association affairs. Mrs. Parkinson resides in Laurel Park and still visits at Fleetwood.

Sally and Knight express their appreciation for this community outpouring of patriotic support. Sally writes:

Dear Fleetwood Friends,

We would like to thank Dee, Morris and Blondie for making this possible, and those dear friends who helped set up and took part in the flag ceremony and refreshments. We also want to thank everyone who took the time to come and be with us. We saw our son that following weekend and he was so pleased that we were able to share the flag with everyone. We have received many notes from so many people, many that we don't even know, and we wanted to share the one printed above.

***God bless you,
Knight and Sally***

So there you have it. As Sally noted, Col Fee recently came back to the USA on leave. He now has rejoined his unit, a part of the 82nd Airborne Division, where he is in charge of 550 men and flies at least 40 hours a week across Northern Baghdad.

Dick Wynne, View Committee Chair

