

Public Information Office Mitzi R. Champion Public Information Director

March 11, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CELEBRATES 250 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND YOU'RE INVITED

Cumberland County marks its 250th Anniversary with a three-day celebration--March 26, 27 & 28th.

The 250th Celebration Committee has planned a three-day celebration with something for everyone. We encourage you to come be a part of this historical event.

Beginning Friday afternoon, from 12:00 until 9:00 pm, the Babe Ruth Museum Traveling Exhibit will be on display near the Historic Courthouse on Gillespie Street. Babe Ruth hit his first homerun March 7, 1914, at the old Cape Fear Fairgrounds in Cumberland County. Later that evening beginning at 6:30 pm the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra will perform on the steps of the Historic Courthouse, as visitors view a beautifully restored courthouse complete with special Historical Displays on view to the public for the first time. The Courthouse will be open to the public from 7:00 to 9:00pm. The Historic Courthouse will also be placed on the National Register of Historical Places and will be rededicated that evening.

Saturday, March 27th is filled with exciting events. Beginning at 9:00 until 5:00pm the Babe Ruth Museum Traveling will be open to the public. Come early to see the Exhibit and then find the perfect spot to watch the parade that begins at 11:00 am proceeding down Hay Street.

The parade will include floats from each municipality, units from Fort Bragg, Special Operations Command and Pope Air Force Base, the 82nd Airborne Band, high school marching bands, antique vehicles, military vehicles and others.

Immediately after the parade, an old-fashioned carnival begins in the parking lot between the Historic Courthouse and the New Courthouse. There will be a carousel, pony rides, a petting farm, old fashioned carnival games, FREE popcorn, cotton candy, Coca-Cola and hot dogs. GranDaddy Junebug will be telling stories to the children on the lawn of the Historic Courthouse and actors in period costumes will be interacting with the crowd.

Saturday Evening, March 27th, the Cape Fear Wildcats 250th Classic begins at 6:30 pm at the Crown Center. This arena football exhibition game versus the Macon Knights is FREE and open to the public.

Sunday Evening, March 28th The Cumberland 250th Musical Celebration begins at 6:00 pm at the Snyder Memorial Baptist Church's. The 75-Voice Youth Choir will perform with guest appearance by the Cumberland County Youth Orchestra Ensemble. This event is FREE and open to the public. Snyder Memorial Baptist Church is located at 701 Westmont Dr.

We have invited all churches, synagogues, mosques and temples to join in our celebration by recognizing the 250th Anniversary of Cumberland County during their regular church services the weekend of March 26, 27 & 28. We are truly blessed to call Cumberland County home and our religious heritage continues to be a very important part of our community, as it has for two hundred and fifty years.

For more information visit www.cumberland250.com or call the Public Information Director at 437-1921. END