



Friends of Fort Caswell Derby Day fundraiser successful

Thanks to the special volunteers, contributors, business donors, and supporters of the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range, the group's Derby Day fundraiser was full of fun and a success at raising money to continue with the stabilization of the rifle range.

Volunteer greeters Mike and Joyce Crabtree registered attendees, many dressed for the derby, and sold dinner tickets. Ten members of Brunswick Town Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution also attended.

Other volunteers, Lorraine Eckard and Stephanie Thompson, offered tabletop race tickets before each of the six races held during the day. The horses held the names of World War I unit mottos and featured a serviceman for each horse providing his unit, division and rank. The sixth table race featured six nurses who served at Fort Caswell.

A few of the mottoes were Virtue Kindles Strength, representing the 120th Infantry 30th Division. Second to None was the motto of the 2nd Division of the Marines. Work all Night, Fight all Day was the motto of the 105th Engineers 30th Division.

The Kentucky Derby race at Churchill Downs was represented by volunteer Allen Lister and his mother, Lucia Lister,

offering bets on the horses at that event later in the evening.

In one corner of the room was a reminder of those honored as the group works to save the historic 1918 World War I structure. The Doughboy Wall was overflowing with Brunswick County World War I veteran names; next to it, the insignias of their divisions and special units could be viewed. This is a copy of a recruiting poster from 1919.

Helen Radcliffe, in her derby attire watched as attendees looked at goodies in the themed baskets she and committee member Jayne Rankin created. Quilts by Barbara Ash, mother-in-law of Amy Eckard and mother of Amy's husband Sam Allison, were sold to benefit the rifle range the last several years.

Amy Eckard and Sam Allison were the "green visor" officials behind the scene making sure winners got their prizes when their horses finished first. Amy Eckard is also the group's webmaster.

Dinner and cake was served before the Kentucky Derby. To help honor a Brunswick County World War I veteran and support this effort, go to caswellriflerange.com, email fcaswellriflerange@gmail.com or write to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.



Photos contributed

