

Friends of the Fort Caswell Rifle Range complete WWI profiles

The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range recently completed posting 72 profiles on its website (caswellriflerange.com) for Brunswick County veterans who served in World War I, a project that began in November 2017. The focus of the stories include the men who were KIA, wounded, died of wounds or died of disease. Identified were 724 men and one woman nurse from Brunswick County as serving their country during WWI.

The Friends recently began the posting of profiles for 14 nurses identified as serving at Fort Caswell during WWI.

The WWI profiles were part of the Honor a Brunswick County WWI Veteran fundraising project that was completed in November 2018, the Centennial of Armistice Day, (known as Veterans Day), signaling the end of fighting in WWI. Signing the Treaty of Versailles June 28, 1919, was the official end of WWI.

The rifle range, which was chosen as an official United States World War I Centennial Memorial by the National WWI Centennial Commission in early 2018, is now the site of the newly installed monument honoring the WWI veterans from Brunswick County. The names of men who gave their lives during WWI are engraved on the monument.

The original mission of the nonprofit remains the historical preservation of the rifle range; any new donations or fundraising will support that mission.

A book has been planned for publishing the WWI profiles and the history of the rifle range but is delayed as volunteers work to determine the date of

death and location of the gravesites of the 725 WWI veterans. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this effort should contact the Friends.

Future events

An Oktoberfest fundraiser will be held Saturday, Oct. 12, beginning at noon at the Caswell Beach town public service building (fire station). Crafts will be sold and a Polka Dance Contest and Best Oktoberfest Outfit will be chosen. There will also be a 50/50 drawing, music provided by the Back Porch Rockers, authentic German food and drink will be catered by Turtle Island. Dinner tickets on request at \$15 per person, Call 278-7584.

There will be a Veterans Day Roll Call of Brunswick County WWI men that served on Monday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. beside the Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial. The public is welcome.

Oktoberfest In Caswell Beach

The Friends of Ft Caswell Rifle Range will present Oktoberfest in Caswell Beach on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Caswell Beach public service facility building (fire station) at 11000 Caswell Beach Road. The event will begin at noon.

Beginning at 3 p.m., there will be music by The Back Porch Rockers and dinner by Turtle Island Caterers. Polka Dancing will also be offered and the Best Dressed Oktoberfest outfit will be selected and more!

We are in need of vendors to offer arts and crafts to the public from noon to 3 p.m. To reserve a space, call (910) -278-7584 or email caswellriflerange@gmail.com. A small fee of \$25 will be charged for vendor space. This event is a great time to offer holiday arts and crafts.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the rifle range historical preservation and the historical book of the men and women that served in WWI from Brunswick County. These books will be offered to the public, but more importantly, they will be placed in the Brunswick County schools and public libraries. The Great War, also known as the Forgotten War, will not be forgotten in Brunswick County.