

Town of Caswell Beach presents Norma Eckard with Gold Star Award

During a recent December work session with the mayor and town council of Caswell Beach, Norma Eckard, president of the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, gave a brief overview of the recently published book, "Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served."

Amy, Norma and Ronald Eckard wrote the 584-page book that has seven parts offered in soft and hard covers. Eckard said the last nine years have left very little time to commit to organizations they care about. The book was their main concern; the book became their passion.

"We could not let 718 men and women be forgotten," said Eckard.

The mayor and town council then presented Eckard with a Gold Star Award in recognition of valuable contributions as a member of the town of Caswell Beach.

After historians identified the rifle range site in 2011 as an extension of Fort Caswell, the effort began resurrecting and preserving the structure. While preparing for the World War I Centennial in 2018, an additional mission was added to research, publicize, and preserve the legacies of the Brunswick



Photo contributed

Norma Eckard, president of the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, was presented with this Gold Star Award in recognition of valuable contributions as a member of the Town of Caswell Beach.

County soldiers and nurses who dedicated their lives to our country. The depth of information may interest anyone curious about this forgotten war and how communities responded to this unexpected upheaval.

This manuscript was written to raise public awareness and honor the men and women of Brunswick County who served by enlisting or reporting for duty, sacrificing their livelihoods and in some cases, their lives.

The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range is a 501(c)(3) organization, all volunteers. They do not receive

any compensation. The Fort Caswell Rifle Range has been designated as one of 100 national WWI Centennial Memorials by the United States World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. The rifle range is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Anyone wishing to buy a book may visit the Friends website at caswellriflerange.com or call Norma Eckard at 278-7584 or email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com for more information.