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### **N.C. FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SALUTE TO VETERANS PROGRAM**

**SOUTHPORT, N.C.** - The North Carolina 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival announces entertainment by *Letters From Home* at this year's annual Veteran Recognition Ceremony on July 2, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Southport Community Building. The group will perform the Vietnam Show *We Gotta Get Out of this Place*. Sponsored by Carillon Assisted Living of Southport and River Road Animal Hospital, this year's event will honor all branches of military.

*Letters From Home*, started in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 2010 and is now one of the fastest growing musical groups in the United States. The group sings in harmony and tap dances in their incredibly comedic and moving patriotic performances. A documentary by David Hardy published in Our State Television won the Emmy Award for Best Magazine Documentary.

The group started at the suggestion of Pat Dearth, a coast guard veteran who loves the 1940's-style music. With their mission to honor veterans, active military and their families through the music and spirit of the 1940's, the group has toured in 35 states and on cruise ships. *Letters from Home* brings back the style of USO with a high-energy performance.

The Veteran Recognition Ceremony is a mainstay of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival. During the many celebrations, it allows the public to stop and remember those who serve our country, protecting our freedoms. The public is invited. We encourage all Veterans in the area to attend. Please arrive early if you want to eat and sit inside the building. Seating is limited and this event is first come, first serve. There will be additional seating with large screen viewing outside the Community Building for those arriving after inside seating is full.

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For more than 200 years the city of Southport, N.C. has celebrated the nation's independence. Annually, more than 50,000 people visit during the festival. With events ranging from arts & crafts in the park, vendor booths, street dances, gallery walks and of course a parade, the area is known as the official celebration location for the state of North Carolina. For more details regarding the festival visit the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce's website [www.southport-oakisland.com](http://www.southport-oakisland.com) or official July 4<sup>th</sup> festival's website at [www.nc4thofjuly.com](http://www.nc4thofjuly.com).