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FESTIVAL RECEIVES CONTRIBUTION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY

SOUTHPORT, N.C. - The North Carolina 4th of July Festival would not be complete without a grand fireworks display, and this year the Festival Committee would like to acknowledge the contributions of local businesses who are helping make this event a success.

The American Fish Company and Frying Pan made a substantial donation to enhance the fireworks display in memory and honor of Ed Harper. Ed Harper served as the Editor and later Publisher of the *The State Pilot* for 46 years. He was an avid supporter of the festival.

The State Port Pilot has been a long-time supporter of the N.C. 4th of July Festival. Whether it is publishing events or request for special needs, the paper's staff does a tremendous job promoting the festival's activities and showcasing our area by capturing the wonderful sense of community that is our hometown.

Additionally, American Marine Construction secured a barge to ensure the continuation of the fireworks off the Southport waterfront. Without the barge, the fireworks display would not be possible.

The Festival Committee appreciates all of our sponsors and media partners who help make the festival a success each year.

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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 or official July 4th festival's website at www.nc4thofjuly.com.