



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP BUTNER

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, at the time the United States entered World War II, approximately 40,300 acres of agricultural land within southern Granville County were purchased by the Federal Government from residents in the Knap of Reeds, Veazy Ridge, Lyons, Cozart, and Wilkins communities, disbanding or relocating eight churches and five schools, and impacting 555 property owners; and

WHEREAS, construction on this land began March 15, 1942, with 15,000 men working on the site at the peak of construction; on August 4, 1942, "The Camp Butner Reservation" was opened by the United States War Department, and named for Major General Henry W. Butner, a North Carolina native; and

WHEREAS, Camp Butner was established for the training of infantry divisions and various artillery and engineering units within the Fourth Services Command, Army Ground Forces; the primary mission of the Camp was to train combat troops for deployment and redeployment to the European and Pacific Theaters; and

WHEREAS, the Camp contained drill fields obstacle/bayonet/hand grenade courses, rifle and artillery ranges, and a POW compound that housed Italian and German prisoners; and

WHEREAS, 1942 – 1945, Camp Butner was a city unto itself with barracks, vehicle maintenance and water treatment facilities, fire stations, and a hospital complex; and

WHEREAS, the Camp also included facilities for recreation and socializing, service clubs, a post exchange, dental clinics, five churches, libraries, theaters, guest houses, a radio program, baseball fields, and a sports complex – all of which helped ease the burden on everyday military life; and

WHEREAS, Camp Butner was officially closed on January 31, 1947, with 20,000 acres sold back to the farmers who had original ownership; 5,000 acres transferred to the North Carolina National Guard; and more than 13,000 acres transferred to the State of North Carolina, which began the Butner community and, subsequently, the Town of Butner following incorporation in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes the significance of Camp Butner during World War II, and honors the veterans, military, and community of Butner both past and present;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2017, as "75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP BUTNER" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twelfth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.