

High Five Tour



By Joe Grace
Photos by Jayson Morales

On July the 6, 2010, the Blue Ridge Mustang Club of Asheville had the honor of welcoming Colonel John Folsom to Asheville, NC, during one of his many stops on his 'around the country' High Five Tour. This tour is his way of thanking Americans for their support of our military families and to bring awareness to the Wounded Warriors Family Support organization, which is designed to support families of those who have been wounded or killed during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Colonel Folsom, a retired United States Marine, founded the organization and is driving throughout the country in a 2010 Shelby GT, 'high fiving' everyone that he meets during his tour.

The 10,000-mile trek around the United States will conclude with the Shelby being auctioned off at the Barrett-Jackson auction later this year. Proceeds will go to help the families that are part of the Wounded Warriors program. I won't go into detail about all the great things that result from this program, but ask that you take the time to visit its website at www.highfivetour.com. There you can read about the organization, view the

locations the Colonel has visited, and have the opportunity to make a donation.

At 5pm on the 6th of July, Colonel Folsom brought his Shelby to the outskirts of Asheville where I met him along with the North Carolina Highway Patrol and Ken Razza, a fellow BRMC member who organized the Highway Patrol escort into Asheville.

Our local ABC TV affiliate conducted a brief interview before we began our 10-mile drive, with Highway Patrol escort, to the Biltmore Estate, which is the location for the upcoming Mustangs at the Mansion MCA National.

Upon arrival at the main entrance to the estate, the Highway Patrol escorted us the three miles to the front of the Biltmore House with lights flashing. It was quite the sight to see people who are driving the 10mph-speed limit on the drive trying to pull over to let the escort pass them by! It's not everyday that the Highway Patrol is on the estate with three Mustangs behind a trooper's car. For once it was nice to be *behind* a trooper's car!

When we arrived at the Mansion, 25 Mustangs driven by members of the Blue Ridge Mustang Club of Asheville met us. After 'high fiving' club members, the Biltmore staff, and some lucky Biltmore visitors, we signed the Shelby.

Yes, *signed* the Shelby. Everyone the Colonel has met had the opportunity to sign the Shelby that bears a specially designed cover from headlight to taillight with the Wounded Warriors Family Support logo and the American flag!

We had about an hour of prime photo opportunities before we fired up our Mustangs and escorted the Colonel off the estate onto I-40 and for the next 20 miles or so westward on his way toward Nashville, TN.

The Blue Ridge Mustang Club of Asheville was not only honored to have been part of this event, but proud to show our support for the cause. We have invited the Colonel and the Shelby (of course) to be our guest of honor at our national show this coming September. If he is there (and he says he will not miss it for the world), please make some time to give him the "HIGH FIVE" and show your support for the families that he is helping throughout our great country!

