



Photos contributed

Dave Kesterson of First Bank donates \$500 to Norma Eckard for support of the 1918 World War I rifle range project.



Fort Caswell Rifle Range

First Bank supports historical preservation of World War I structure

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range president Norma Eckard received a \$500 check for support of the 1918 World War I rifle range project from Dave Kesterson, senior vice president of First Bank and a board member of the Friends group.

The Friends group is a 501(c)(3) organization, meaning contributors can claim donations on their yearly taxes. Eckard said the board hoped to have the range repaired and ready for the 100th anniversary/centennial in 2018, but didn't expect the repair cost to be so high.

"The search for grants supporting historical preservation are limited, even our state no longer offers grants for these kinds of projects," Eckard said in a news release. "A few

foundations are available, but it appears after reviewing previous award selections that restoring a rifle range is not as exciting as restoring a 100-year-old home. We live in an historical area of the state with Fort Caswell, of which the rifle range was once a part, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson, Orton Plantation and many other historical facilities and it seems a shame to let this 1918 World War I rifle historical structure disintegrate. Our yearly fundraiser, the Derby Day Celebration, is approaching May 6, but there is no way we can raise \$20,000 to \$40,000 to complete the total repairs."

To learn more about the Friends group, go to caswellriflerange.com or email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com.