

Library staff remembers dedicated volunteer

Editorial analysis

Bonnie Heater

Signal staff

The Woodworth Consolidated Library's children reading program held a special tribute for one of its loyal volunteers Nov. 5.

Brandy Bramlett, the wife of Air Force Master Sgt. Paige Bramlett and the mother of Benjamin, age 5, and Caira, age 2, passed away Oct. 9 in Grovetown, Ga.

During the dedication ceremony Susanne Joyner, the head librarian for the post library, expressed her and her staff's appreciation for Bramlett's contribution in making the library's children reading program not only fun and interesting, but in helping to build strong bonds between the parents and children involved.

"From this day forward we would like to dedicate the children's patio area to our devoted patron, volunteer and friend, Brandy Bramlett," Joyner said.

"Brandy [Bramlett] graciously donated more than 1,000 hours of creativity, talent and time to Woodworth Consolidated Library's Children's program," she added. "Her dedication and support made a lasting and positive impact for the Soldiers and Families we serve. She will be always loved and missed."

After Joyner presented Sergeant Bramlett with his wife's certificate of appreciation, Joyce Daniels, the children's program coordinator for the post library, gave Benjamin Bramlett and his younger sister Caira a bagful of toys.

Sergeant Bramlett and his two young children, accompanied by his sister-in-law Megan Bramlett, joined Joyner on the children's reading room patio.

Members of the 31st Intelligence Squadron, where Sergeant Bramlett is assigned on post, also joined him. Representing and showing their support from the 31st Intelligence Squadron were Chief Master Sgt. Darryl Furby, the squadron's superintendent; Senior Master Sgt. David Bryson, Master Sgts. Mark Cleveland, Randy LeBlanc, Anna Pardubsky and Shannon Kaufman. Also attending from the squadron were Staff Sgts. William Sault and Amy Dotson.

An Angel's Trumpet had been planted in the brick planter in the patio along with assorted colored pansies. Near the flowering plant was a plaque in baby blue with white lettering. "In honor and memory of Brandy Bramlett ...Library Children's Program volunteer...Dedicated Nov. 5, 2008."

The Angel's Trumpet was specially picked out by the head librarian. "When I walked into Green Thumb West [Nursery and Garden Center] in Martinez I couldn't believe there were so many trees and plants to select from," Joyner said. "As soon as I saw the Angel's Trumpet I knew it was the right one to represent her."

After the Family left, other parents and their children of the library's children reading program walked out onto the patio to view the newly dedicated site.

Brandy [Bramlett] was 29 years at the time of her death. She was formerly of Pensacola, Fla. In high school she was a cheerleader, according to her husband. "She graduated in the top 10 percent in her class at Pine Forest High School," he proudly said. "She was also valedictorian of her class at Pensacola Junior College where she received her Associate of Arts degree in radiology technology."

Several of the parents, staff and children expressed their fond memories of her during the dedication.

Often Brandy could be seen skillfully painting assorted designs, rainbows and flowers on the faces of the children at many of the events hosted by the library's children's reading program. All sat so patiently for her and later proudly displayed their faces to one other.

Sometimes you could find her in the center of a big circle full of children of various ages. Her own children would sit especially close to their mom. They liked to hear her read to them. According to the director of the children's reading program Brandy came in extra days to help with the program. "I made her my head volunteer," Daniels proudly said.

"For my Easter egg hunt she filled all the eggs with candy," Daniels added. There were 700 eggs!

"The last day she volunteered before she passed she

shared with me some ideas on how to make the children's story hour last longer," said the children's program coordinator.

Brandy wasn't always a volunteer. She started bringing her children to the children's reading program in 2004 as a story time mom. Then in the summer of 2004 she became a volunteer.

At the Columbia County Library in Evans she brought her young son Benjamin, then age 2, regularly to the library's children reading program and after hour special programs, according to Pam Link, the children's librarian there. "She was always so cheerfully," she said. "It brightens my day to see her with her children."

"Often we would talk after the programs, Link added. "We mostly talked about her children. I was so impressed with how dedicated she was to them. She was special!"

The staff at the Woodworth Consolidated Library plan to honor Brandy [Bramlett] in another way. "We will be nominating her for the post's Civilian of the Year award," Joyner said. "Her name will be put in posthumous, but we hope she will be selected for this honor."

As a reporter for *The Signal* newspaper I had the privilege and honor to capture behind the lens of a camera the interaction of the moms and dads and their children in the post library's children reading program. I especially remember Brandy [Bramlett]. The first time I encountered her she was reading to the children with her own children, Benjamin and Caira, sitting close to her. She always had an easy laugh and she was very patience too. Brandy [Bramlett] didn't get cross when



Photos by Bonne Heater

Susanne Joyner, Woodworth Consolidated Library head librarian, begins the dedication program for Brandy Bramlett, a volunteer for the post library children's reading program who died Oct. 9.

little Ciara just jumped into the small wading pool filled with water and plastic ducks with her shoes on during this summer's reading program carnival. It was one of the children's games at the event.

Brandy [Bramlett] the flame to her candle didn't go out at her passing. It was only moved somewhere that it was needed more.



Air Force Master Sgts. Randy LeBlanc and Anna Pardubsky of the 31st Intelligence Squadron at Fort Gordon pause at the dedication site for Brandy Bramlett the volunteer of the post library children's reading program. LeBlanc and Pardubsky are friends and colleagues of her husband, Air Force Master Sgt. Paige Bramlett.

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