

Tattered by Helene, Raised with Honor: A Veteran's Flag Returns



*Private Conard
Houston Mash*

Ashe County, North Carolina - Article by Crystal Lynn Jordan

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, the residents of Ashe County have been left grappling with the aftermath of one of the most devastating storms to ever strike the region. Homes have been reduced to rubble, roads washed away, and entire communities uprooted. Yet, amidst the destruction, a story of resilience and unity has emerged, reminding us of the strength of the human spirit.

The hurricane, which tore through the county with relentless force, left a trail of destruction that will take years to fully repair. Families are working tirelessly to rebuild their lives, often with limited resources. Volunteers and local organizations have stepped in to provide aid, but the road to recovery remains long and arduous.

Amidst the chaos, a poignant moment of hope and honor unfolded. A flagpole, once proudly standing as a symbol of freedom and sacrifice, was torn down by the hurricane's fury.

Determined to restore this symbol of pride and remembrance, residents of Ashe County, Crystal Lynn Jordan, AGNP, MSN, BSW, RN, CCM an active Soldier Angel and local community volunteer in partnership with Ashe Long Term Recovery Group and Disaster Case Management and Luke Whichard VFW member, active member of the Marine Corps League, and Toys for Tots coordinator along with Colonel Adam Barlow and wife Amanda Barlow came together to reinstall the flagpole and raise a new American flag. The effort was a testament to the community's resilience and their unwavering respect for those who have served. The ceremony to raise the flag was a moment of unity, bringing together neighbors, veterans, and volunteers in a shared act of reverence.



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"This flag represents more than just our nation; it represents the sacrifices made by our veterans and the strength of our community," said a local resident who participated in the effort. "Reinstalling it was our way of saying that no storm can take away our pride or our gratitude."

As Ashe County continues to rebuild, the reinstallation of the flagpole stands as a beacon of hope. It serves as a reminder that even in the face of overwhelming adversity, the spirit of community and the values we hold dear can prevail.

The journey ahead is daunting, but the people of Ashe County have shown that they are not alone. With determination, support, and a shared sense of purpose, they are proving that recovery is not just about rebuilding structures—it's about restoring hope and honoring what truly matters.



Recognizing the heart behind the project:

Ashe County Long Term Recovery Group has been fortunate to work with Crystal Jordan since Hurricane Helene swept the county. Crystal is well beloved by all who know her and serves diligently behind the scenes of many of our projects.



Crystal serves Ashe County with love and dedication and is a prime example of Ashe County resilience and heart. We are incredibly blessed to have her as a part of the Ashe County Long Term Recovery Team. If you or anyone you know needs additional assistance with recovery from Hurricane Helene, you can reach out to the Ashe County Disaster Case Management office at 336-846-5877