

# McBride Elementary celebrates its namesake

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## Vietnam soldier's widow participates in school's rededication

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Students from Fort Benning's McBride Elementary School made an early morning field trip to the other end of Custer Road on Friday, depositing flowers at the graveside of the

school's namesake, Capt. Morrie McBride.

The students then returned to school to celebrate with the faculty and staff the 40th anniversary of the opening of the school, which for all that time has been the assigned grammar school for children from nearby McGraw Manor housing area.

Until three days ago, it looked unlikely that McBride's widow, Anne McBride Henderson, would make it to the rededication.

"We didn't even know where the

family was until this week," said Col. Charles Durr, commander of the school's Partner-in-Education, the Basic Combat Training Brigade.

But, he pointed out, a friend of the McBride family read an article in the Ledger-Inquirer about the search for a McBride relative and was able to reach Henderson at her home in Florida.

"This is a very special place to me and my daughters," said Henderson, who was widowed in March 1964 when McBride was killed in Vietnam.

"I was here when the school was

dedicated back in 1966 and have returned here often with family members."

McBride, a 1957 West Point graduate, was inducted posthumously into the Order of St. Maurice with McBride's former college roommate, Jerry Scott, accepting the medal on his behalf. It was then presented to McBride Principal Phyllis Parker, who will keep it on display.

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In another tribute to McBride, the school recently changed its mascot from the Gator to the Patriot. "That's what Captain McBride was — a Patriot," Parker said. "It only

seemed fitting that we honor him that way."

Parker, in her first year as the McBride principal, said she was happy to reintroduce her students to McBride, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross.

"I hope we use this occasion to rededicate ourselves to the principles that guided his life," she said.

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