ABAC Nurses Join Carry The Load Eastern Relay

TIFTON – Four faculty and staff members from the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will join the ABAC students taking part in the Carry The Load (CTL) National Relay this year. They will serve as medics in various locations across the East Coast.

The goal of Carry The Load is to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices of our military, law enforcement, firefighters, and rescue personnel. Carry The Load was established in 2011 by former Navy SEALS Clint Bruce and Stephen Holley.

ABAC nurses taking part in the Eastern leg of the CTL relay are Kim Baldwin, Tammy Carter, Carmen Counts, and Cindia Dubravcic. Baldwin will assist in the CTL relay in Washington, D.C., Carter will travel to Nashville, Tenn., Counts will help out in Boston, Mass., and Dubravcic will lend aid in Atlanta.

Involvement by personnel from the School of Nursing and Health Sciences came about via an e-mail from Troy Spicer, dean of the school, looking for volunteers to serve as medics.

“In the position of medics, we will provide medical needs of our Carry The Load team but we will also serve as encourager, motivator, team walking member, and mother,” Carter said.
Carter chose to participate in the National Relay after taking part in ABAC’s Step-Off event for the past two years and serving as a board member on the college’s CTL campaign. It is a labor of love for her due to the long history of military service within her family. Her father retired from the Air Force, and Carter served one enlistment in the same branch. But her biggest reason for taking part in the National Relay is the fact that her twin sons are both presently on active duty in the Air Force.

Dubravic adds, “I too am a ‘God and Country’ kind of girl. I have always had a soft spot for our military, police, EMTs, etc. My son is a Marine, and I served as a Naval Nurse Reservist. I also like being around young people, so I am looking forward to the experience. I am sure I will never forget this trip.”

Eleven ABAC students will participate in the National Relay that starts at West Point, N.Y., and culminates on Memorial Day in Dallas, Tex.

For the third consecutive year, the Stafford School of Business at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will host a Carry The Load Step-Off event on the campus beginning at 1 p.m. on April 28. The Step-Off will begin at Lewis Hall at 1 p.m. with a route through the campus and conclude at 5 p.m. with a short ceremony. The walk serves as a prelude to the National Carry The Load Relay.

For more information on ABAC’s involvement with the Carry the Load Step-Off event, interested persons can contact the event coordinator via e-mail at tifton@carrytheload.org. To register to participate, go to www.carrytheload.org/tifton. For more on the CTL National Relay, go to www.carrytheload.org.