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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 17, 2017

## **Rocky Mount-150 years strong**

**Rocky Mount, N.C.**-Perhaps you've seen the flags on utility poles in downtown Rocky Mount. Or, maybe you've noticed the city's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo proudly displayed beside the state and American flags in front of City Hall. That's because the city of Rocky Mount is happy to celebrate another milestone-150 years since its founding as a town in 1867.

The logo conveys the city's rich history because its focal point is the Rocky Mount Mills. Now generating coverage due to its renovation and brand as a brewery incubator, Rocky Mount Mills was initially one of the first cotton mills in the state.

But, there's more to the city's 150 years, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to Booker T. Washington High School in 1962 where he uttered his prelude to the famous "I Have a Dream" speech; Dr. Booker T. Washington's visit to the area in 1910; Rocky Mount's leadership in the tobacco industry, along with the establishment and later prosperous growth of the city's banks.

Rocky Mount's history was touted at the kickoff to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, held at the February First Friday event. However, according to City Clerk and Anniversary Planning Committee Chair Pam Casey, other upcoming events will showcase the 150-year anniversary logo, first unveiled on the cover of MY Rocky Mount magazine. These events will also be an opportunity for participants to win prizes and more importantly, to learn the history of Rocky Mount.

"The city of Rocky Mount has a rich heritage. I appreciate those who came before us to create the foundation for this great city that we all now enjoy," says Casey. "There have been good times and unfortunate times, but history takes us beyond what we have experienced ourselves so that we can appreciate the hard work and accomplishments of others that make our lives better. I love my city and am delighted to be able to help tell the story of where we started and take pride great pride in where we are today."

Placement of the anniversary logo and other activities in recognition of our anniversary will take place at the city's most notable events, such as Downtown Live!, the Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down, Juneteenth and more. The logo will also soon be in many additional locations throughout the city.

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