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News Release

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CAROLINA BEACH COUNCIL SELECTS LOCAL RESTAURANT OWNER AS CITIZEN OF THE QUARTER



CAROLINA BEACH, NC---Most folks in Carolina Beach agree that Alton Riggs is “the man” when it comes to good barbecue. A&G Barbecue and Chicken is listed in tourist books as one of the best coastal barbecue restaurants in the country. Members of Town Council think the only thing better than Mr. Riggs’ barbecue is his commitment to community service. As a result, the Council has selected Mr. Riggs as Citizen of the Quarter. He will receive the honor at the Town Council meeting on October 12, 2004, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mr. Riggs has been owner and operator of his family restaurant known as A&G BarBQue for the past 16 years, but he has resided in Carolina Beach for 24 years. Before entering into the restaurant business, Mr. Riggs, 62, used to drive a Coca-Cola truck. Then about 30 years ago, he got a chance to work in the Kinston, N.C. restaurant owned by his wife’s family. He says the restaurant business has been in his blood ever since. He also decided a long time ago to make community involvement a priority and says that it is still a part of his business philosophy today.

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“Instead of investing in newspaper and radio advertising, I invest my dollars in the community and trust that people will spread the word,” Mr. Riggs said. The word has definitely spread and his South Lake Park Boulevard restaurant has a wide base of local patrons. Construction workers and town hall employees routinely patronize A&G. Mr. Riggs also has established long-standing business relationships with area municipalities and businesses. During hurricanes, A&G feeds Carolina Beach employees and volunteers who work the 12-hour shifts. Recently, when the City of Wilmington had a picnic for some 1,000 employees, A&G was the vendor. Mr. Riggs also assists with feeding people involved in big community events such as Seagull Bait & Tackle’s Annual Fishing Tournament.

Mr. Riggs comments the Town of Carolina Beach has been “good to him” and says he is “glad I’m able to give back.” Giving back comes in the form of things like being a long-time sponsor of a Pleasure Island Baseball League team and when groups like the Boy Scouts or the Parents-Teacher Association need food or other items for meetings, A&G often donates.

Mr. Riggs is a member of the local Masonic Lodge, the Shriners, Knights of Columbus and Christian Missionary Alliance Church. During his early years in Carolina Beach, he served as a board member on the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Brenda, have 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren.

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