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## *Clayton County Board of Commissioners*

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**Media Contact:  
GlenNeta Griffin  
(404) 416-2165**

### **Clayton County WWII Veteran to Receive France's Highest Honor** *Red Ball Express soldier to be presented with Legion d'Honneur for historic service*

Jonesboro, GA- On behalf of his heroic service in Normandy, France the 91 year old Reverend Stanley Theron Byars, Sr. of Riverdale, Georgia will be honored by the French government on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 2:00pm on the steps of the State Capitol building.

Having served in the European Theatre of Operations during WWII in the United States Army as a Sergeant assigned to the historic 4008<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Truck Company, also known as the Red Ball Express, Byars will be awarded with the Legion d'Honneur by French Consul General Denis Barbet. "It is a great honor for me to meet American veterans of WWII and thank them, on behalf of my country for their brave service. Seventy years ago, these men courageously left their homes to fight for a land they'd never seen, and we, the French, we will never forget that. I look forward to personally shaking Mr. Stanley Byars Sr.'s hand and bestowing upon him France's highest honor. Like the many who served their country and ours, he is truly a hero", stated the Honorable Denis Barbet. Additionally on March 31, 2015, Byars was named a Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor for noble and historic contribution in a decree signed by the President of the French Republic.

Clayton County will also be recognizing this living hero on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00pm during the Board of Commissioners Monthly Business Meeting. The meeting is held at the Board of Commissioners Office located at 112 Smith Street in Jonesboro. In honor of the WWII veteran and Riverdale resident, a special Honor Guard presentation will open up the meeting to be followed later with a proclamation presentation by Vice Chairman Gail B. Hambrick, District 2. "It will be both an honor and a privilege for me to present a proclamation to one of our country's historic heroes", said Hambrick. "I like many others saw the movie honoring this group of World War II African American service men. The Red Ball Express mission was to ensure that both American troops and our allies were well supplied with everything they needed to advance against the Germans and many times that mission meant the loss of lives. Therefore I am also very proud to honor Clayton County's own Knight and living hero."

The community is welcome to attend the Tuesday evening Board Meeting to help honor and show their gratitude for Reverend Byar's service to his country and to the people of France.

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112 SMITH STREET JONESBORO, GEORGIA 30236  
PHONE: (770) 477-3208 | FAX: (770) 477-3217  
[www.ClaytonCountyGa.gov](http://www.ClaytonCountyGa.gov)