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Founding father delivers memorable speech at Fifty Forward College Grove

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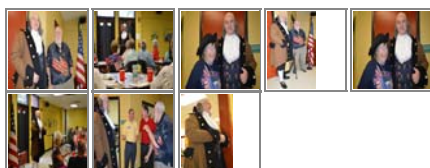
Posted: Monday, July 7, 2014 1:07 pm | Updated: 1:46 pm, Mon Jul 7, 2014.

By Kerri Bartlett • Assistant Editor | 0 comments



Ben Franklin and Luke Boyd

Luke Boyd (right) wrote the dialogue for Ben Franklin's speech, which was performed by Herb Wallace at the Fifty Forward center in College Grove.



A gathering at the Fifty Forward College Grove center spotlighted the life of founding father Benjamin Franklin as actor Herb Wallace portrayed this American statesman in monologue at a Fourth of July celebration last week.

In full period costume, bifocals and all, Franklin shared the history of his eventful life, leading a young nation almost 238 years ago. He also pointed out his pride that Franklin, Tenn. was named after him when it was founded in 1799.

Local author and columnist Dr. Luke Boyd, who served as headmaster of Battle Ground Academy, wrote the monologue delivered by Wallace to a crowd of about 70.

"I already knew a lot of the history behind Benjamin Franklin," Boyd said. "He was a brilliant man and a genius in so many areas. He rose to become a key figure during the Enlightenment period and communicated regularly with continental thinkers."

Boyd said that he most admired Franklin as one of the greatest "thinkers" of all time.

Libby Beeson, program director, conceived of the idea to invite Ben Franklin to speak about the Fourth of July, and "the idea just grew from there," she said.

The program drew local elected officials and included a patriotic program with music. Wallace, who portrayed Ben Franklin, has performed at Second City in Chicago. Members gave Wallace a warm reception, staying after to have a picture made with one of the great men who founded our nation.

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