

The Bridal Showcase

A Collection of Wedding Professionals

January 2013



presented by



COVER PHOTO BY DIANNE PERSONETT

I was attending my best friend's wedding last summer and her sister, Alecia and I were talking... Alecia is an active event planner in Charleston, SC and heads an organization she developed called Operation Marry Me Military. I was extremely interested in giving back to my community and jumped when Alecia offered me the opportunity to lead the Mecklenburg County project.



Here it was April; time to begin the planning process! The catch... I had to wait until August to find out who the lucky couple was! Calling vendors to donate and provide services for a couple we had never met was an experience that I found exhilarating. The response was overwhelming, over 40 vendors agreed to participate, and give without hesitation for this amazing cause. I even had people calling me to donate pieces for this event. It became abundantly clear that this was going to be a dream wedding for our military couple. Although I truly adore taking an idea and building on a bride-to-be's vision, starting with a blank slate was something I found completely enjoyable as well. I loved the opportunity to let my creativity take over and plan this event for a deserving military couple.



Amber & Jeffrey's submission was simply touching and their story made them obvious recipients for Operation Marry Me Military Mecklenburg County's free wedding! With the selection process complete I finally received word that it was Amber and Jeffrey; I got to read their story and learn something about them. I was excited and slightly nervous to actually speak with Amber and to hear more about their story as military couple—to share with her my initial vision for her wedding. Planning took place while Jeff was deployed but we had to proceed. Amber and I agreed on the theme and colors and I proceeded to tell her about all the vendors who were already on board and the components that were currently in place. Amber and Jeffrey reside in Fayetteville, and communication of course is vital so we had to choose a number of things via email and phone.

Operation Marry Me Military

by Heidi Crowder
Carolina Weddings & Events

I think my most memorable part of the experience was being able to go with Amber to pick up her wedding gown. It was the moment we were able to bond and I truly valued the opportunity to be there for her since most of her family lives in Texas.

What an amazing experience I had and what a deserving couple you are Amber & Jeffrey! Congratulations to you both and Thank You for allowing me to share in this special time in your lives.

On a final note... Jeffrey, we graciously appreciate your service to our country!



Vendors:

All day photography coverage with 3 shooters:
Dianne Personett Photography
Beer for cocktail hour and reception:
Dilworth Neighborhood Grille
Bridal Party Flowers: Flowers by Lingky, LLC
Bridal Portrait Session: Ann's Photography, LLC
Caricatures: Caricatures by Joel
Caterer: Queen City Catering
Ceremony Venue: Elder Art Gallery
Ceremony Music: Musically Yours
Customizable Monogram Crate: Call Me Cratezy
DJ: Z Brothers
Dove Release: Doves Expressions of Love
Engagement Session: Jim Trice Photography
Favors for Guest Bags: Polka Dot Bake Shop
Favors for Groomsmen, Parents and Bride and Groom: A Bum's Rum Cake
Favors for the Reception: The Blushing Bakeshop
Gifts for Bride and Groom: Eliza B's
Gift Bags for out of town guests:
Couture Events & Design
Grooms Cake: Cake Expressions by Lisa
Hair and Makeup for the bridal party: Catie Starr
Honeymoon Stay for two nights:
Aloft Asheville Downtown
Hotel Accommodations Bride and Groom,
discounts guest rms.: Hampton Inn Charlotte Uptown

Jewelry for the Bride and Bridesmaids:
Silpada Designs
Make up for bridal portrait: Mary Kay – Heather Fitch
Monetary Donation (escort cards, menu, and guest bag itinerary): Doo-Travel
Officiant for ceremony:
Charlotte Wedding Officiant Reverend Jim Lytle
Party Rentals: Party Reflections
Photo Booth Rental: ShoeBox Photo Booth
Reception Flowers and Ceremony Flowers:
Lily Greenthumbs Floral Artistry
Reception Venue: Charlotte Trolley Inc.
Rehearsal Photos: Gotcha Studios
Sketched Wedding Dress Portrait: Antonia Stylist
Transportation for guests and wedding party:
Trolleys of The Carolinas
Transportation for bride and groom: Royal Rides
Videographer: Authentic Exposure
Wedding Dress: Mecklenburg Bridal
Wedding Cake: Cheesecake Etc.
Wedding Invitations: Inspire Design Studio
Wedding Planner, Prop Rentals, Stationery design and print: Carolina Weddings and Events
Wedding Programs: Salutations
Wine and Champagne: Whole Foods Market