## Service Awards...from Page 1A to the maintenance of law and order."



Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR Vice President Sid Turner thanked Union County Sheriff's Lt. Leon James for his service with a Law Enforcement Commendation Medal on Dec. 17.

Revolution for Fire Lt. Brent Long, who has made a career of protecting life and property here in Union County. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

commending his consistently high level of care for patients.

Lowery has been with Union General since January 2012 and was promoted to shift supervisor in 2016, which Rogers said in his nomination letter "was an easy decision." The paramedic also serves as training coordinator and quality assurance coordinator for Union

"Frank can be trusted to perform all aspects of his job with little or no supervision," Rogers wrote. "He sets a daily example of care and professionalism for others to follow. His experience and dedication make him the ideal candidate for this award."

Also attending the meeting was Kendra King, who presented Lowery with the memorial award established in honor of her husband, Murray

Murray King was a member of the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR who suffered a massive heart attack achievement and dedication

The veteran law enforcement officer has more than 20 years of experience, and he's been working with the local Sheriff's Office since March 2009. Prior to Union County, he worked with the Ashburn Police, Turner County and Towns County sheriff's

"During his career at UCSO, he was initially assigned to the courthouse," George wrote. "In July of 2017, Lt. James became the commanding officer over the courthouse law enforcement operations and assisted in the implementation of new security checkpoints. Additionally, he wrote the Courthouse Security and Safety Plan that we follow today.

"Seeing a serious need to increase traffic enforcement due to excessive speed and many accidents on Union County roads, Sheriff Mason saw a need to implement a traffic unit to work at slowing drivers down and making the roads safer for

"This is when the sheriff tapped Lt. James to lead the way and become the dedicated traffic enforcement officer. Based on Lt. James' observations and volume of activity, a second officer was assigned.

George went on to say that, in nominating James for the SAR medal, it was evident that he had "continually displayed his commitment and dedication to our community."

"In review of his actions this year, his efforts have focused on making Union County a safer place for all of us to live and drive," George wrote. "He continues to show his dedication and professionalism in his daily duties and approaches each and every task delegated to him aggressively and with positive attitude." Rounding out the

awards that evening was Lt. Brent Long of Union County Fire, who received the Fire Safety Commendation Award for "accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions to protect human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties due to fires. In nominating him for

the award, Fire Chief David Dyer said that the 21-year local firefighter had "advanced through the ranks to the level of lieutenant."

"He is currently responsible for the training of the entire department and emergency management administration," Dyer said. "He is also a Deputy Director of Emergency Management for

Medical Technician.

"Lt. Brent Long has completed numerous fire and emergency management classes with hundreds of hours of training during his career," Dyer said. "His knowledge and experience are vital to the department.

"(He) is extremely gone above and beyond with

his service to ensure the safety

their awards that evening with appreciation as their loved ones

looked on with pride. Be sure to check back next week for coverage of accept the county budget, which occurred after press time, as well as further details from the

# Photo by Shawn Jarrard Turner also expressed the gratitude of the Sons of the American

in 2014 to which Union General

EMS responded. And though he did not survive the heart attack, Kendra was so impressed with the emergency response for her husband that she asked the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter to

establish a memorial award in

recognition of the EMS.

The Murray King Award, presented with a small cash prize, recognizes "outstanding service and dedication to the citizens of Union County by performing Emergency Medical Services to ensure health and to save lives."

Also in the meeting, Turner called forth Lt. Leon James, whom the Union County Sheriff's Office nominated as "our 2020 Officer of the Year" in a recommendation letter signed by Sheriff Mack Mason and Chief Deputy John George.

Turner presented James with the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal "in recognition for outstanding

Union County."

Long began his firefighting career in the volunteer service, soon after being hired on as a full-time firefighter in 2002. He also completed medical training to become a licensed Emergency

dedicated to the department and the community. He has

of firefighters as well as the people of this community. We as a department are very proud the Dec. 28 called meeting to of his work and dedication to All three men accepted Dec. 17 county meeting.

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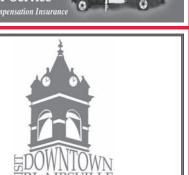
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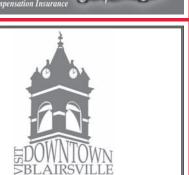
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