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prayer for our military, I just want to say that in 1973, Ted Barnes and myself were the last two draftees to leave Union County. The Vietnam War was going on and a lot of soldiers were coming home in boxes or were missing in action." Sheriff Mason said. "Had they been allowed to come back home, what would their lives have prospered into. The war was unfolding on TV every time you turned it on, and you had Vietnam in our living rooms. This country needs to not forget the sacrifices that have been made. Freedom is not free."

Mason then quoted a song titled, *Land of the Free*.

"Land of the free, sweet home of liberty, but it came at such a great cost. Our soldiers, brave and true, gave their lives for me and you. Thank God for the red, white, and blue. Over the sea, on an old rugged tree, a battle was won long ago. We'll not be falling in, we have victory over sin. Thank God for Mount Calvary."

Prayer of repentance and reading of *II Chronicles 7:14* was from World Harvest North Church Pastor



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason leads the Awake America prayer group in the prayer for those in the Armed Forces. Photo/Todd Forrest

Asa Dockery.

Before he began, he gave some background on the Awake America Prayer meetings.

"Five years ago, Lydia (Long) had gone on a Web site about Awake America. She had a burden to begin this prayer gathering in Fannin County," Dockery said. "She, the ministers, and several citizens have held the banner high and lifted up

over Fannin County for five years. We are grateful for the prayers that have brought our communities together. It has mended a lot of things and built up some fences that had been torn down. It gives people hope when the community can come together and we are honored to have the leaders that we do in this community."

The meeting included praise and worship songs.

Everyone sang along with Chris Tomlin's *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)* and Ray Boltz's *I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb* led by Morganton Mayor, and Pastor Mike England.

Prayer for our nation's leaders was led by Dale Shaffer. Prayer for revival in Union County and America was conducted by Deacon John Mason.

The meeting was then open for anyone to pray. More than half dozen used the opportunity to pray for our nation, our leaders, for a revival in our nation, and whatever had been laid upon their heart.

The next Awake America Prayer Meeting at City Hall will take place on June 6th.

# Davenport ...continued from Page 1A

with Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe regarding the formation of a new R.O.T.C. program at Union County High School.

"That would be a plus for Union County," Major Gen. Akin said. "I interviewed Leon because I wanted to get a letter from him to be part of the package that will be going into getting an application for an R.O.T.C. detachment here in Union County."

Major Gen. Akin continued by giving a summary of Davenport's distinguished military career that included three Silver Stars for performing heroic deeds during combat. Not only did Davenport receive three Silver Stars, he received two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He earned 10 Air Medals for his significant number of hours in the air during the operations while he was in the service.

"I could go through all of the different awards where he was recognized during all of his tours overseas, so Leon, we are proud of you and proud that you are a part of Union County," Major Gen. Akin said. "We want to do this for you, we love you buddy, and thank you very much."

Davenport graduated from Union County High School in 1945, but had already joined the U.S. Army and went on active duty before coming back to Blairsville in full military uniform to receive his high school diploma.

Davenport served in Japan during the end of World War II, where he stayed with the occupation forces until a conflict broke out on the neighboring Korean peninsula in June of 1950.

There, he served with the famed 24th Infantry Division during the conflict that has never officially ended, only halted by a cease fire being agreed upon by all sides in July 1953.

Davenport was given a Battlefield Commission during the Korean Conflict, which after the Vietnam War, these appointments became nearly non-existent due to stricter U.S. Army regulations.

"The bottom line is, he had one tour during the (Korean) War, and when he came home to Fort Benning, he had a friend who had a family and the idea of getting sent to Korea scared him to death and he didn't want to go," Akin said. "So Leon volunteered to take his place and go back to Korea."

From 1955 to 1962, Davenport served in the Army Reserves until he decided to return to active duty in 1962 during the Berlin crisis.

In 1961, the Soviet Union began construction of the Berlin Wall, separating East and West Berlin. When Davenport arrived, the Soviets were in the process of turning the Berlin Wall from a wire fence to the actual concrete wall that stood until 1990.

Davenport remained in West Germany until 1972, when he was sent back to Southeast Asia as an advisor during the Vietnam War.

When Davenport decided to return stateside for good, he didn't kick back and enjoy retirement, although it



Above, Iraq War Hero Chuck Honaker greets a hero of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, U.S. Army Major (retired) Leon Davenport. Below, Leon and his bride cherish the day meant to honor Union County's most decorated veteran. Photos/Todd Forrest

would have been much deserved.

"After all of his years of deployment for our country, he came home to provide the same dedication to our county," Paris said. "He became the administrator at Union General Hospital and

made it one of the best and most recognized small, rural hospitals in the United States.

"We thank you Leon for not only what you've done for our country, but what you've done for our county," Paris said.

## Rabies Clinic Saturday, May 11th

The Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 11th at the following locations: Primary School Parking Lot\*, UCPH/Dr. Barnes, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Ivy Log Fire Station, BAH/Dr. Livingston, 9 a.m. - 12 noon; Fire Station, Suches (across from WG School), BAH/Dr. Colbert, 9 a.m. - 12 noon; Voting Precinct 2, Jones Creek, BAH/Dr. Livingston, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; and Voting Precinct 3, 19/129S (across from Pappy's Flea Market), UCPH/Dr. Zagrocki, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Georgia law requires rabies vaccinations for dogs,

cats, and ferrets greater than 12 weeks old. Cost of vaccinations are: Rabies Vaccination only, \$10 dog, cat; Canine Distemper/Parvo (DHLPP), \$14 per dog; Feline "Distemper" (FVRCP), \$14 per cat; and Feline FVRCP and FeLV, \$33 per cat UCPH only.

Rabies Clinic is sponsored by the Blairsville Animal Hospital, Union County Pet Hospital, and the Union County 4-H.

Please call 706-439-6030 for further information. \*Extended hours at this location only. N(Apr10,214)CA

## Can You Can?

### Seminar at Union County Library

Allyson McGraw, from the Union County Extension agency, will be presenting a seminar on canning and canning safety at Union County Public Library on Friday, April 12, 2013 at 10 AM. She will also be testing pressure canners so bring your canner if you need it tested.

Directly following the

seminar, participants will be taking a field trip to Union County Cannery for a tour with Mickey Cummings who is the Farmers Market and Cannery Manager for Union County. There is no charge for this Seminar.

If you have any questions please call 706-745-7491.

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