

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Guest Columnist

What is a Vietnam Veteran?

by Mike Priven

What is a Vietnam Veteran? The term military veteran is a common everyday term used to define a person who has served in the armed forces. They are the boys or girls next door. They had families, jobs, lives they were living in peace. The Viet Nam Veteran (VNV) is all that but more. For one he was probably drafted into the service or enlisted because he would have been drafted. Some did volunteer. This was the last war this country fought where people were pressed into service.

Even though drafted, the VNV was full in. He or she served with distinction and honor for America and freedom. They went to help free a country overrun by the evils of communism. That was the naïveté of the American soldier.

The VNV was a very unpopular war. A war that the country apparently didn't want or at least the vocal minority and the media did not want.

Demonstrations and riots at home were the norm. The VNV was not aware of this until they return to the states, remember social media did not exist then.

This was the first war where unreasonable rules of engagement were applied to our troops. No such rules had ever been implemented before. They weighed heavily on our troops. Things like "don't shoot until fired upon" were frequently and rightfully ignored. But they existed!

The VNV did not lose the war. The war was lost at home in the media. The horrors of war were highlights on the nightly news. The numbers killed and wounded from both sides were displayed nightly. The numbers killed by our side were frequently exaggerated. The country and our politicians finally felt the pressure to stop the war and finally this horrible war ended. We abandoned those that helped us while we were there; they had no hope of rescue. After we left, they were probably executed.

When the VNV returned home there were no parades, no banners, no welcome home signs. The VNV was the evil perpetrators of this horrible war. Why should they be welcomed home? A fact that has tormented every VNV from the very day they returned home.

The war was over, but the media never let go. Whenever a VNV was involved in a crime, they always managed to mention that a VNV was involved.

Many returned home physically mangled or mentally changed. More than 50,000 died in Viet Nam. Those that had obvious war wounds were treated and added to the ranks of all wounded veterans from previous wars within the ranks of the VA. But many had injuries that were not readily diagnosable. They had what came to be known as PTSD. Back then they were just short tempered, temperamental, or paranoid.

Now is when the uniqueness of the VNV tragedy really starts to take shape. While serving in VN, our gov. in an attempt to clear the vegetation and save troop's lives sprayed 100% concentration of Agent Orange through VN. A highly toxic defoliant! To make matters worse a chemical dioxin was added to the mixture making it a formidable killer of anything it touched. It was sprayed everywhere, by planes, trucks, choppers and backpacks.

See Priven, page 5A

Letters to the Editor ...

Traffic light needed

Dear Editor,

As a proponent for the placement of a traffic light at the intersection of Pat Colwell/Murphy Highway, I heartily agree with the writer of last week that a traffic light is needed at this intersection. After many emails and discussions with the commissioner's office, I realize the matter needs to be addressed and can only be addressed, by GDOT. This was pointed out by the editor's note at the end of the writer's letter.

Apparently the road needs of our county have a very low priority at the state level (reference the pothole across from Union Station that has been there for months). The state simply is not recognizing the increase in traffic nor the need for more participation in maintaining and upgrading the roads in Union County.

I believe our commissioner is doing all within his power to bring the present and future traffic improvement needs to the attention of the GDOT. However, I also believe our local representatives either have little or no influence or interest in promoting our needs to the state or at least it seems so based on the lack of any major improvements, other than a couple of bridge projects, since Hwy 515 was built in the '80s. Many emails and telephone calls have been sent to our representatives requesting their assistance in placing a traffic light at the intersection of Pat Colwell/Murphy Highway. So far they must have higher priorities, or so it seems, based on the lack of responses and action by GDOT.

Thank you,
Larry Madison

Motorcycles danger to drivers

Dear Editor

We are desperate for help on the Gauntlet! Perhaps you don't know that the Gauntlet is a recommended motorcycle ride in Georgia. The route goes from the stone pile on Hwy. 60 north of Dahlonega to Suches and on Hwy. 180 to Vogel State Park south on Hwy. 129 to Turner's Corner at the intersection of Hwy. 129 and Hwy. 19.

We have many Harley motorcycles that drive the speed limit and are polite, but the racing motorcycles are increasing every pretty weekend from March to November. These people wear leather suits to prevent injury and drive 30 to 40 miles over the speed limit, passing lines of cars on the double yellow lines. The worst part is the terrible noise from their modified bikes that can be heard on top of Blood Mountain, a beautiful 2 and a half mile walk from Hwy. 19/129. Because this route includes both Lumpkin and Union Counties and is far from police stations, it is a free for all every pretty weekend. The local police do not have the manpower to combat this, and the riders go so fast it would endanger their lives to follow them. The State Patrol is 40 miles away and these riders go around and around all weekend. The amount of traffic from Turner's Corner to the Lumpkin/Union line is huge because Hwy.

See Case, page 5A

Watch Your Step

Life seems to be made up of steps. A baby is born and one of the great moments of celebration is when that baby takes its very first step, or says its first word. Parents spend the first few months of a child's life trying to get them to walk and talk and then spend the rest of their lives trying to get them to sit down and shut up (not really). The first steps of a child are tottery and unsteady. Parents usually hold a child's hand to steady its steps. One of the early lessons that a child is taught is "watch your step." Of course, that advice is given in order for the child to keep its eyes open, to walk in safe places, and steer them away from any danger. Good advice. If followed, it will prevent a lot of bumps, bruises, breaks, burns, bites, black eyes, bloody noses, bandages and all the other bad B's. "Watch your step" is not only healthy physically for a child, but it is good advice for the rest of our lives.

It's On My Mind

Danny Paris



Adults have a tendency to get careless, as they grow older. As parents caution us to "watch our steps" to protect our physical health, God cautions us to "watch our steps" to protect and preserve us spiritually. In fact, the Bible makes it clear that we are always just one step away from death and judgment (I Samuel 20:3). It seems to this preacher that much of our nation has become "High Steppers" that are out of step with the God who created them.

To be in step with God means that we are in harmony and agreement with His Word, Will and seek to walk in His Way. The devil is like a carnival barker who is saying, "step right up folks and try your luck at the latest fads and fashions of sin." Anytime we step up to the devil's booth, we step away from God, which is a step downward. Legalized abortions, laws for same-sex marriages, affirming and approving homosexual activity and other sexual perversions are steps downward, definitely, not steps upward. Preachers, politicians or public officials who advocate perverted behavior of any kind are attempting to change the steps of our nation to walk in a path that will only lead to destruction. If I step on anyone's toes I do it on purpose. Personally, I think that we need to be taking steps to correct some of the crooked

See Parris, page 5A

Questions and Answers

Courthouse Security - part 1

Since this is a new subject, I will be including a few questions of my own to help explain what we are and will be doing at the courthouse.

Q. Is Union County one of the few courthouses in the state of Georgia that does not have a security check point?

A. I do not know how many courthouses like us, do not have security check points, but I am sure there are a few. I have been fighting kicking and screaming, for several years. While none of us are ever totally safe in our work environment, I have always felt safe in our courthouse. We have two full time deputies on staff. While signs obviously do not scare off criminals, Georgia law has forbidden any weapons from being carried into courthouses and all courthouses have always displayed that signage and everyone knows it. We have never had a serious problem.

Q. How many courthouse shootings have there been in Georgia courthouses?

A. Until this month (June) there had only been ONE shooting, EVER! It was Brian Nichols back in 2005 who killed a judge and three others when he escaped from custody and stole a deputy's gun in the Fulton County Courthouse. Prior to that there had been none. However, it had nothing to do with a lack of security checkpoints, as Nichols was a prisoner in custody who stole a gun off a deputy. Because of that one instance, most courthouses in Georgia began some type of screening process and spent millions and millions of dollars because of one instance that happened one time in down town Atlanta.

There had not been a second shooting in Georgia until June 6th of this year, after all of our planning was already in place. This second shooting occurred at the Forsyth County Courthouse. One deputy was wounded in the leg twice, but he killed the assailant attempting to enter the courthouse.

Q. Will Union County begin utilizing a security check-point?

A. Yes we will and I can't tell you how much I dread it. We will begin with hand wands and a walk through scanner on June 2nd (this week), then install two new X-ray machines later in July

Q & A from Union County Commissioner

Lamar Paris



See Paris, page 5A

Happy Fourth!

The sky over Union County will be bursting with color this Friday night. Residents and visitors will have their choice of two great fireworks shows to celebrate our nation's independence. The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce along with our sponsor, Woodmen of the World, will host our annual display at Meeks Park. Additionally, the town of Suches has prepared a phenomenal show to be held at Woody Gap School. Both shows will take place on the night of July 4 beginning at dark.

As in past years, the Chamber is offering chances to win \$1000 by making a \$10 donation toward the fireworks display. The winner will be drawn on the evening of July 4th following the show in Blairsville and does not have to be present to win. Tickets are available from Chamber Board Members and at the Chamber office within the Union County Community Center at 129 Union County Recreation Road. You may see volunteers of the Chamber at various local businesses this week as well as in town on the night of the fireworks. Please consider a donation that will ensure the continuation of this wonderful tradition.

New this year for our member businesses is an opportunity for a fireworks raffle package. For a minimum \$200 donation, member businesses will receive 20 raffle tickets, a three

See Williams, page 5A

From My Kitchen

As I walk up and down the aisles of the Farmers Market each week, so many of you are amazingly gracious with your appreciation of my sharing with you a little bit of my life experiences through this column.

I often get requests to talk more about my travels, more about my growing up in the Northeast, and at this time of year, I get the most requests for recipes.

We all see these beautiful fruits and vegetables and we think, "how can I fix that or fix it differently than I've always prepared it". Last year we had our first "Exotic Food Day" at the market. I fixed a recipe using zucchini that went over so well, that all the farmers sold out of zucchini by noon that day! Two weeks ago, Farmer Joe Long and his wife, Valerie reminded me of a recipe that I had made that they just loved and said they now make often at home. I hadn't made it for myself since last summer, and just the thought of it made my mouth water. I bought some zucchini from Joe and went home to produce the famous Italian Pasta Carbonara, substituting zucchini for the pasta. This is a low carb (nearly no carb) gluten free recipe that is just sinfully good.

Here's what you need for two good size entree servings: four small or two medium or one large zucchini (You can use the traditional green or the new golden yellow variety), six strips of bacon, one tablespoon of butter, 3/4 cup of heavy cream, one clove of garlic, finely chopped, 3/4 cup of grated Parmesan, salt and pepper to taste

This recipe only takes about 15-20 minutes to prepare, so you may want to have a side salad already concocted, and the table set, so you can sit down and eat this piping hot, right out of the pan to the plate.

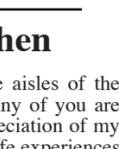
The only tools you'll need is a potato peeler, a large frying pan and a set of tongs. Grab your potato peeler and start peeling strips of zucchini, skin and all. Just keep going up and down till you only have the center of the seeds left in your hand. You can compost the seeds. The strips you have will now serve as your pasta substitute. Set aside.

Next you want to fry your bacon crisp, but not burnt. Set aside to drain on a paper towel. Leave about 3 tablespoons of bacon grease in the pan, add the butter and garlic. When garlic releases its bouquet, throw in the shredded zucchini. Leaving it on medium high heat, keep tossing with the tongs till it becomes fork tender.

See Leone, page 5A

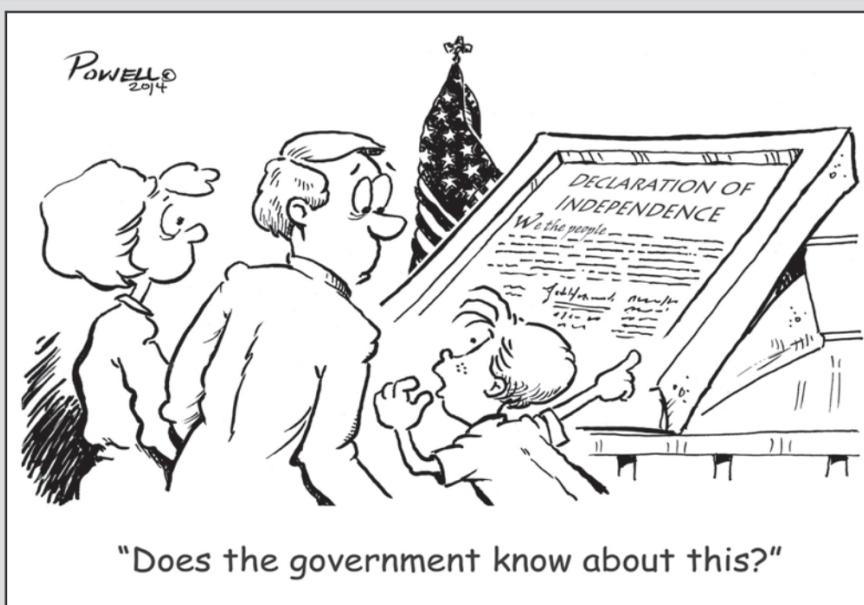
Blairsville-Union County Chamber

Cindy Williams



Farmers Market Moment

JorAnne Leone



Second Amendment

Dear Editor,

Recently in the North Georgia News a letter to the editor dated June 18th appeared regarding the Second Amendment and the right to keep and bear arms. First I will state I put little stock in past Supreme Court opinions as they have proven time and again to put their personal agendas ahead of the Constitution and ignore basic interpretation. Case in point, this is the same bunch who repeatedly throw out the phrase "separation of church and state" in cases when no such wording appears in our founding documents but that lie has been used so much most people believe it. That however is another argument for another day.

I maintain the Second Amendment was written to provide citizens protection from tyrannical government. We had just come out of the Revolutionary War with Britain (which by the way was not a foreign country at that time but in fact our country until we won independence) and we won using state of the art weapons of the day equal to what the British had. We fought that war because we were sick and tired of being taxed to death and ruled over with no voice in the matter (does this sound even vaguely familiar?) Anyway point being it is clear from various writings that the Founding Fathers acknowledged government worked best when politicians knew its citizens would not be bullied. Let me say while I am not advocating armed revolts I do suggest that freedoms we still have are due to a certain respect and fear government has for armed citizens. The recent incident over grazing land in Arizona being one example.

See Hunter, page 5A

Military contempt?

Dear Editor,

Why today is there so much contempt for our country's military personnel? In 1945 and in 1952 after Korea when our troops came home they were honored. Now came Vietnam. Returning troops were treated like vermin. Before being abolished by President Nixon in 1973, the military draft was responsible for primary manning. When drafted for Vietnam one could either serve, go to jail or go to Canada and renounce his citizenship. Along come the Clintons. Even general officers on active duty and in uniform as I understand were not welcome in the White House. In fact one young female aide told a general when he spoke to her at the White House, "I don't speak to soldiers!" (Clinton apologized.) By Clinton's edict trained soldiers could not (and can not) carry loaded weapons on post unless on duty which required being armed, e.g. military police (thus, the recent Fort Hood massacre). This brings us to a current outrage. A young marine along with two of his battle buddies were recently killed in Afghanistan by an IED. The young marine in question had graduated from

See Fiser, page 5A

Sitting Hens, Peddlers and Popsicles

It is difficult to imagine not being able to go to a local store to purchase a cold drink or candy bar. But, in 1946 that is just the way it was in the Appalachians. The closest store to my dad's home was about 4 miles away and there was no money to buy gas for the old truck let alone a Popsicle. The only time Dad and Uncle Bud were able to enjoy a treat was the monthly trip to town or when the peddler came by. The peddler came by once a week in a horse drawn wagon. He had everything in that old wagon, even Popsicles. My dad and uncle could trade 6 eggs for a Popsicle. What a deal!

So, one hot July day they noticed the peddler coming down the road toward their house. Paul (my dad) and Uncle Bud ran to the hen house to gather up the needed eggs. But, that old boss hen was there and she would not give up her eggs easily to these two young boys.

My dad was afraid of the old hen and she knew it. She would flap her wings and try to flog him every time he reached for an egg. When I say flogging I mean the old hen would rise up on her legs, spread her wings and flap them in my dad's face. Next, she would try to stab his hands with her spurs. Now as an adult that might not scare too many people. But, just imagine yourself as an 8 year old boy. So, on most days Paul and Bud would have just counted their losses. However, that day was not just another day.

The temperatures were in the high nineties and Daddy could just imagine the taste of that banana flavored Popsicle. As dad fled from the old boss hen by running from the hen house he could see the peddler getting closer and closer to his home. In an act of desperation Dad reached down to pick up a stick and went back into the hen house. He walked back into the hen house and told the old hen, "I aim to get 1 dozen eggs whether you like it or not." As the hen opened her wings Dad struck her in the head with the stick. The brothers gathered up their eggs and ran to meet the peddler where they exchanged their eggs for the popsicles.

The boys sat down under a shade tree close to the peddler's wagon to enjoy their popsicles. He told his younger brother to keep quiet about the incident. "Just tell Mom the old hen fell over dead." As they enjoyed their popsicles they noticed their mother walking out of the hen house. As Granny neared her two sons Uncle Bud began to get nervous. Granny walked over to the peddler to ask about a new coal oil lamp. As they were talking Uncle Bud could stand it no longer. He grabbed Granny's hand and blurted out, "Paul killed the old hen to get her eggs".

Granny sat down next to her sons and ex-

See Cummings, page 5A

Around The Farm

Mickey Cummings



North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

Kenneth West
Owner / Publisher
Charles Duncan
Editor

Joe Collins
Advertising Director
Todd Forrest
Staff Writer

Lowell Nicholson
Photographer
Website: www.nganews.com
E-mail: northgeorgianews@hotmail.com
Mailing: POBox 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514



Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m.

Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - 1 Year \$35.00. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$3. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 10, 1987 at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. Advertising and subscriptions can be paid by cash, check or credit card.
Phone: (706) 745-6343 Fax: (706) 745-1830 * P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, GA 30514