

# Lewis...from Page 1A



**L.J. Harrison also retired recently from the GMRC, as chaplain. His many friends presented him with a parting gift in the July 28 meeting.**

you. Congratulations to you, your wife and your family. May you always have work for your hands to do. May your pockets always hold a coin or two. May the hand of a friend always be near you, and may all your wishes come true."

Lewis began working for GMRC 11 years ago in 2005 when Steve Gooch, now a Georgia senator, served as GMRC chairman. Since becoming executive director, Lewis has assisted in countless initiatives, comprehensive plans and projects that have brought GMRC where it is today.

"I have watched some talented individuals leave this organization via retirement, finding other employment, furthering their education, or just to change careers," said Lewis.

"In all cases we have filled vacancies with talented employees, whether internally or externally. I believe we have, overall, one of the finest group of superb employees found in this state."

"They work hard and celebrate victories with communities. I appreciate this staff and know our 51 local governments in this region do as well. I would rank us in the Top Three in the state."

Lewis presented his final Executive Director's Report to the council, walking the audience through the various chairmen with whom he has worked throughout the years, from Sen. Gooch to the current chairman, Dean Scarborough. Lewis highlighted each chairman's career, sharing funny quips about times spent together.

er, and thanking each chairman for his leadership.

"My term as chairman was one year," said Sen. Gooch. "One of the most rewarding things we did during that year was hiring Danny Lewis. I think we made the right decision. One of the things that stood out to us was that he had experience all across Georgia. Thank you all. We made a good choice in you, Danny. Best of luck to you."

A retirement reception for Lewis will be held at the Gainesville Civic Center on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is an informal reception and drop-ins will be welcome.

Keeping with the theme of the night, L.J. Harrison of Toccoa, chaplain of the GMRC, also announced his retirement. According to Harrison, he has presented 290 devotions and prayers throughout his 41 years of service with the GMRC. Harrison shared his last word of prayer over the GMRC at Thursday's meeting.

Next month's GMRC Council Meeting will be held in Forsyth County on Thursday, Aug. 25.

According to the GMRC website, the commission "is a sub-state district created by local governments in 1962 under provisions of Georgia Enabling Law. The purpose of the GMRC is to locally promote and guide proper development of human, natural, physical, social and economic resources in the Georgia Mountains Region. The area covers 3,500 square miles, and includes Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White counties."

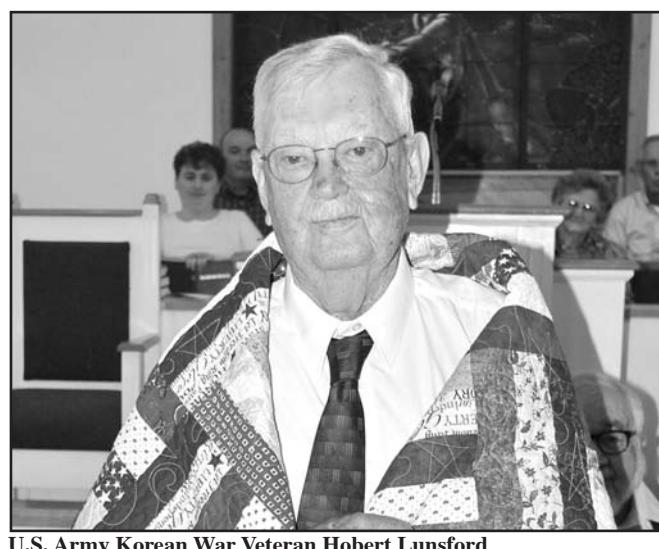
## UC Interagency Group meeting

The Union County Interagency Group meets on the second Thursday of the month to discuss issues affecting our community. We offer friendly networking, informative guest speakers, and up to the minute information. UCIG is comprised of caring people interested in making comprehensive service information and resources on health, education, and well-being available to all Union County citizens. UCIG members promote healthy thinking and hope for a brighter future. N(Aug3.Z1)CA

## Army Veteran Hobert Lunsford receives Quilt of Valor

On July 24, 2016, with his family and friends present, it was an honor for the Misty Mountain Quilts of Valor Outreach members Maggie Crider and Linda and Jim Gorman to present a Quilt of Valor to Mr. Hobert Lunsford, a U.S. Army Korean War Veteran. Mr. Lunsford was nominated for the Quilt of Valor by Brenda Brookshire. Mr. Lunsford was presented his quilt at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Suches, GA.

Mr. Hobert Lunsford was working in Detroit, MI when on December 6, 1950 he received orders to report to Fort Jackson for basic training. He remained at Fort Jackson until September 1951. In September he received orders for Korea. In Korea Mr. Lunsford served on the front lines with a combat infantry division defending Hill 355. In April 1952, he was assigned to the 558 MP Company as a security guard for Generals Ridgway and Van Fleet and later as a security guard at the Panmunjom Peace Conference. Mr. Lunsford returned to the



**U.S. Army Korean War Veteran Hobert Lunsford**

United States in October 1952. Awards and medals include Korean War Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

On April 8, 1951, Hobert and Henrietta Brack were married in Dahlonega, GA. They have two daughters, Karen and Starr.

Quilts of Valor are presented to those veterans and

active duty military who have served in combat zones. Information about Quilts of Valor may be found at [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org). The patriotic quilt presented to Mr. Lunsford, represents a thank you to him for what he has done to defend and protect our nation. Each Quilt of Valor presented is registered with the National Archives. NT(Aug3.Z5)CA