

# Haggard...from Page 1A

crowd to their feet as they roared with affection for Haggard and sincere approval.

He talked about his aged status in life.

"The only people that want to be 76 are the people that are 77, and I'm one of them."

In addition to the lucky audience members who were able to attend the event and those working the event, Haggard travels with an entourage of about 24 people, which includes the members of his band and crew members that

help setup equipment at the many venues.

That entourage also includes those that work the soundboards.

Loren Kemper, is a sound technician who has been working and touring with Merle Haggard for the past 12 years, said that "Merle prefers smaller venues," such as the Music Hall because he wants the audience to experience a more "intimate" sound when listening to his music.

Kemper also said that "Merle has a huge heart,"

and many of the people in his crew have been with him for many years including Norm Hamlett, a "steel player" who has been with Haggard for 46 years.

Haggard's entourage keeps an extremely busy schedule according to Kemper who stated that they typically tour 10 months out of the year, and on Thursday night they were in Tuscaloosa, AL, then traveled to Hiawassee, and would be leaving as soon as the Music Hall show ends to head to Myrtle Beach, SC.

Those in attendance for this legendary performer included people from all over the Southeast, including some as far away as Texas.

Two of these lucky attendees were Barry Barrett and Tammy Lott of Oakwood, who were "pleasantly surprised" at the venue, and thought the show was "absolutely great."

The show was proudly presented by Country Music Station 106.1 WNGC and Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

# Wings...from Page 1A

by some to be a battle decided in the air.

Mostly due to Great Britain and the United States decision to build a strategic force of large, long-range bombers in order to not only support the ground troops, but also to have the advantage of delivering bombs into enemy territory in a more efficient manner.

With the advantage of these giant warbirds, and the skill of World War II pilots, the Allied Forces were able to take the lead and win the war.

By having these living monuments available for new generations to view in a hands on way is phenomenal, especially owing to the fact that many of these war machines are no longer in existence.

Beth Dyer and her mother, Vieta Mae Dyer were the insistent force, whose desire to bring history to the local people and their children, brought this amazing tour to the area.

Beth Dyer wanted to give "a huge thank you to everyone who came out to see the WWII aircraft at the Wings of Freedom Blairsville stop, and a huge shout-out to the folks at Blairsville Airport, City, Blairsville-Union Chamber of Commerce, and numerous others who helped us get this event off the ground (no pun intended!)."

The Collings Foundation is a non-profit organization who proudly supplied the aircraft for their tour around America. According to the foundation's website collings-foundation.org, "the original focus of the Foundation was transportation-related events such as antique car rallies, hill climbs, carriage and sleigh rides, and a winter ice-cutting festival in the Stow, MA area. During the mid-1980s, these activities were broadened to include aviation-related events such as air shows, barnstorming, historical reunions, and joint museum displays on a nationwide level."

In addition, the Collings Foundation would also like to thank aviation fans for promoting the Wings Tour: A living history display of the



Ron Priest took these photos at Blairsville Municipal Airport last week during the Wings of Freedom Tour.

Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, Consolidated B-24 Liberator, and North American B-25 Mitchell, America's backbone bomber aircraft of World War II.

Sixty years after their use over the skies of enemy territory, they embark on a new mission over the skies of America to honor our veterans of World War II, promote education of our future generations about the role of the

aircraft and the flight crews of World War II, and to preserve these treasures of American aviation history where they belong - in the sky.

The airshow was a tremendous success, and maybe if you missed your opportunity to witness living history, the warbirds might return to the Blairsville Municipal Airport for another showing.

It was a wonderful opportunity to witness history.

# Georgia Retired Educators Day



Left to right, back row, Jane Collins, Cathy Jarrett, Lamar Paris, and Charles Adams. Front, Melissa Kelley, Pat Everett, and Terry Queen. Photo/Charles Duncan

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Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris took time on Friday to meet with the local chapter of the Georgia Retired Educators Association.

During the time spent reminiscing, Commissioner Paris took the time to issue a proclamation declaring Nov. 3rd as Georgia Retired Educators' Day in Union County.

Jane Collins, Cathy Jarrett, Charles Adams, Melissa Kelley, Pat Everett, and Terry Queen were on hand for the occasion.

"More than 60,000 educators have devoted their time, energies, and talents to public education, providing educational development of millions of outstanding

Georgia citizens," Paris proclaimed during the ceremony at the Union County Courthouse last week.

"Retired educators touched and influenced the lives of generations of young people and motivated and inspired them to use their innate talents and abilities to the fullest and to become responsible and contributing citizens," Paris proclaimed.

"Retired educators possess valuable knowledge and use their lifetime experiences and skills to enrich the educational process in a variety of settings. Often, they continue to be a major source of insight and direction for our state and nation. Many return as classroom assistants, or substitute teachers, while many serve on local boards of education," Paris pro-

claimed.

"For more than 49 years, the Georgia Retired Educators Association has dedicated its efforts to improving the welfare of its retired educators and has provided opportunities for them to become involved in community activities," Paris proclaimed.

"Whereas, all citizens of Georgia owe a debt of gratitude and appreciation to retired educators for their dedicated service to our state, nation and county, I, Lamar Paris, Commissioner of Union County, do hereby proclaim Nov. 3rd, 2013 as Retired Educators Day in Union County, and encourage our citizens to recognize the lasting contributions of our area's retired educators to the lives of our citizens and the welfare of our city and county."