

Veterans...from Page 1A

by the North Georgia Honor Guard; a presentation of "I Am a Veteran" by the American Legion Auxiliary; and the Commander's Award.

The Commander's

Award is presented annually in recognition of a worthy veteran for their outstanding contributions to the community and veteran organizations throughout the year.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris signed a proclamation stating that Nov. 11, 2015, would be a day "for honoring all veterans in Union County and the state of Georgia."

"There are approximately 2,683 veterans in Union County, and more than 752,882 veterans in the state of Georgia who, by their continued devotion to the highest ideals of citizenship, constitute a foundation of both the strength and the progress of this state," read the proclamation.

"It is a privilege and is in the best interest of our county, state, and nation that we express our gratitude to our veterans whose sacrifices should serve as constant reminders of the high price of liberty," the proclamation continued.

Present for the signing of the proclamation were: Jerry Cannon, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7394; Richard Hoibraten, Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-3; Mary Arnold, American Legion Auxiliary Post 121; Bob Ramey, Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-3; Mike Priven, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1101; Bryan Sandberg, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 11; Bob Spaulding, Georgia Department of Veteran Services; Don Sullivan, American Legion Post 121; Commissioner Paris and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley.

At the signing, VVA Chapter 1101 President Mike Priven thanked Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and Commissioner Paris for helping to take the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall down the day it left the county, on Monday, Oct. 12.

"The fact that those two gentlemen helped us disassemble The Wall without being requested to, that was a perfect example of how much support and what the veterans mean to this community at the upper echelon," said Priven.

Commissioner Paris could have been but was never drafted for the Vietnam War, and he has always held a deep respect for those who serve in the military.

"When you haven't been in the service, it's almost like you appreciate them even more," said Commissioner Paris. "I was so close to having to go in and didn't have to go in during Vietnam, so Veterans Day has always been special to me. Veterans have always been special folks that I'm proud of, and we all need to honor them."

Tags...from Page 1A

through the Union County Tag Office.

Both men received their license plates around the same time, in early October, and they are the first in the county to have plates designated specifically for World War II Veterans.

"Carl Bonham was the first person I have ever been able to get a WWII license plate for, and I have worked here 15 years," said Jennifer Dyer Kerr of the Tax Commissioner's Office.

Bonham was 18 when he joined the Navy, and he considers himself fortunate to have been on a ship that experienced no casualties during the war.

"My first engagement was the Marshall Islands, and we started there and we went all the way around until we ended up in Iwo Jima, and then we came back home," said Bonham, who witnessed the famous flag raising at Iwo Jima.

After learning from his son Mark, a Vietnam Veteran, that the tag office offered free World War II license plates to veterans of that era, Bonham went with his daughter, Linda McGee, to see about getting one.

"It's quite an honor as far as I'm concerned," said Bonham on obtaining his new World War II plate. "From age 18 to 22, all those years I spent over there, and then to come back and be honored – at least when I drive around and people see my plate, they know that I was in World War II. I've had so many people say, 'Thank you for your service,' and I

think that's nice of them to do that."

Martin was in the Navy for four years, and he served two of those years with the U.S. Marines in the South Pacific during World War II, where he and his fellow servicemen took six islands from the Japanese.

Prior to installing his new World War II Veterans license plate, Martin had a specialized plate that had lasted through at least four new vehicles, which read VIP-YOU. That plate cost him roughly \$75 each year to maintain as a personalized plate.

Union County Tax Commissioner Lee Knight told Martin about the World War II plate, which he could get for free, and Martin was excited to take on the savings.

"I'm proud of that money I've got in my pocket," said Martin, a native of Blairsville who has owned several local businesses over the years, including a dry cleaning business and extensive work in real estate.

As Veterans Day approaches, the Union County Tax Commissioners Office would like to inform all U.S. military veterans that they are eligible for one free license plate for their vehicle.

Requirements are that applicable veterans be Union County residents, or they can go to the county tag office where they live, and bring a copy of their DD214 that the tag office can send in to the state to get the free veteran plate.

There are more than 160

license plates available for veterans, and the \$20 annual registration fee is waived each year at the time of renewal.

"This is just one of your benefits if you are a veteran, and we at the Union County Tax Commissioner's Office are more than happy to assist our veterans in receiving their free tag," said Knight. "There may be other benefits to you if you are designated by the VA as a service-connected disabled veteran, and we can explain those to you once we see your papers from the Veterans Administration."

For Knight and the rest of the staff at his office, the chance to help veterans – most recently Martin and Bonham as World War II Veterans – is a way of giving back to those who have served their country to protect the freedoms of all Americans.

"Veterans Day is a time for all of us to honor all veterans, both living and dead," said Knight. "Veterans Day is mostly intended to thank all living veterans for their dedication and service to their country. Nov. 11 of each year is the day that we celebrate our veterans, a day to show our appreciation for their sacrifices and service to keep our country free."

According to Knight, the best way to have a "Happy Veterans Day" is to do something special to make a veteran happy, which is something he and his office do every chance they get.

"Next time you renew your tag and if you are a veteran, just bring us your copy of your DD214 and we will be happy to honor you with your free vehicle license tag," said Knight.

and Waugh from Pickens and Cherokee counties.

"The arrests were the result of an ongoing investigation from Fannin County," said Capt. Deyton. "They had information that Hensley was hiding out over here possibly, and our investigation found he was in a camper at an RV site on the north end of the county, laying low there with everybody else."

Assisting in the investigation was Narcotics Squad Sgt. Tyler Miller, and Sheriff Mack Mason would like to thank his deputies for yet another job well done in getting drugs off the streets of Union County.

Drugs...from Page 1A

with intent to distribute; four felony counts of possession of a controlled substance; felony possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime; and felony possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Kenny Aaron Greene, 28, was arrested and charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana less than 1 ounce.

More felony charges are pending against all individuals involved in the arrest.

Confiscated at the scene were approximately 5 to 6 grams of methamphetamine, multiple individual bags of

marijuana that appeared to be for sale, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office, as well as prescription pills and digital scales.

Also recovered was a stolen four-wheeler, according to the sheriff's office.

"The four individuals have been charged with Violation of the Georgia Controlled Substances Act at this time," said Capt. Chad Deyton of the Union Narcotics Squad. "Three of the four were convicted felons, excluding White. Waugh and Hensley were both wanted fugitives, Hensley from Fannin County