

Two airlifted after T-bone crash on Georgia 515



This Audi Allroad failed to yield to an oncoming Ford F-350 on Georgia 515 last week, according to Georgia State Patrol, resulting in a collision that sent two people to the hospital via medical helicopters.

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Two Fannin County residents had to be life-flighted following a T-bone car crash at Georgia 515 and SR 325 in front of the Valero gas station last week, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

All told, the accident involved three vehicles and 12 occupants, including six children under the age of 12.

The crash occurred at

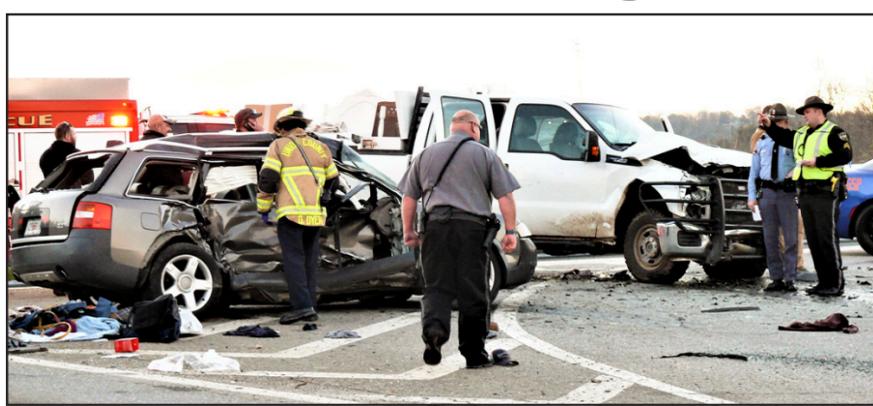
front of a third vehicle, a 2013 Nissan Armada, which was sitting at the stop sign of SR 325 waiting to enter the roadway, per GSP. The Audi and F-350 received disabling damage, while the Armada was able to leave the scene.

Only the Audi's three occupants suffered injuries in the crash, including the 18-year-old male driver from Elijay, who was taken via ambulance to Union General Hospital for suspected injuries, and his two passengers, who were flown via medical helicopters to Northeast Georgia Medical Center with serious injuries, per GSP.

The two passengers in the Audi were sitting on the right side of the car during the collision with the pickup, and both were unresponsive when local authorities arrived to assist, Union County Fire Chief David Dyer said.

A 19-year-old female from Morganton was trapped in the front passenger seat of the vehicle, requiring firefighters to use the Jaws of Life to remove her, and Dyer said she did not regain consciousness before medical transport to Gainesville.

An 18-year-old male from Blue Ridge sitting in the



Of the 12 people involved in the three-car accident at 515/325 on Jan. 12, six were children under the age of 12.

backseat was not trapped, and Dyer said he demonstrated some responsiveness prior to being flown out.

The medical status of the two Fannin County individuals who suffered serious injuries was not known at press time.

Traveling in the Ford F-350 was a family from Cedar Bluff, Alabama, with two adults in their 20s and two children under 4. In the Armada was a woman from Blairsville in her early 30s and four children under 12. No one in these

two vehicles reported injuries at the scene, per GSP.

The driver of the Audi is suspected as being at fault in the crash for failing to yield to oncoming traffic, per GSP, and it was not known at press time if charges were pending.

First responders that day were from Georgia State Patrol, Union County Fire, Union General EMS, Union County Sheriff's Office, Air Life Georgia 14 of Blairsville, Air Life Georgia 2 of Cornelia, and

Tanner's 24-Hour Towing, with coordination by Union County E-911.

"This was one of the more severe accidents we've had (in a while)," Chief Dyer said. "It required a lot of folks and some ingenuity to do some extrication, get those people out, and get them treated."

"An effort like this takes a whole team to make it work, and the people in this county are lucky to have people who work so well together."

Glenn Hamby...from Page 1A

School Association of Baseball Umpires.

His stellar reputation as an officiant was so well known, in fact, that in 1987 he was asked to umpire games for the Dixie Youth Boys and Majors World Series in Rock Hill, South Carolina, an honor to that point reserved exclusively for host town umpires.

For many years, he championed youth sports as a charter member of the Union County Recreation Board, and in 1997, Hamby was honored locally with a baseball field named for him in Meeks Park.

It was a fitting tribute to a man who had served as a mentor to younger generations for most of his adult life, fostering excellence in an untold number of youth ballplayers.

Shortly after he retired from his career as a GDOT project engineer in 1989, and at the insistence of his friend Doyle Wade, Hamby took his lifelong love of sports card collecting to the next level by opening his regionally renowned Owltown Baseball Card Shop.

In addition to his many baseball activities, Hamby refereed high school basketball, and he maintained many friendships playing golf, which he kept up with until last year while serving on the Union County Golf Board.

Following Hamby's passing last week, his son Royce was joined by Lamar Paris and Gary Davenport in placing a memorial wreath on the door of his card shop.

"Lamar and Gary and so



Glenn Hamby was a senior at Union County High in 1956 and a fine catcher on the school baseball team. Photo/Submitted

many others played golf with Glenn," sister Cheryl Hamby Williams said on Facebook. "He was such a gentle giant and will be so missed."

"I really appreciate all the prayers, texts, calls and comments on Facebook for our family. If you knew Glenn, you had to love him, as he always encouraged and tried to help so many. He was just like our Dad. Strong in so many ways but always there for anyone."

Hamby was a lifelong member of Shady Grove United Methodist "and always loved and supported his church."

"Over the years he has served the church in many capacities," his obituary reads. "In addition to being Sunday School Superintendent, he

served as administrative board chairman and served on other church committees. For the past several years, he has been a member of the Shady Grove Cemetery committee."

In a 2019 interview with the North Georgia News, Hamby let it be known that he still had ambitions of breaking into the big time with baseball, saying that, when he'd spent his final day on earth, he would be looking forward to getting back to the diamond.

"I've asked the Lord several times that I hope he's got a team that I could coach if I get up there," Hamby had said.

Surviving Hamby are his loving wife Joann Rich Hamby; children Royce Hamby and Teresa Hamby Ritzert; siblings Roy Hamby and Cheryl Hamby Williams; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives and innumerable friends.

Private family services are being planned due to COVID-19 and out of an abundance of concern for the community. A public memorial service will be held at a later date.

Cochran Funeral Home has charge of Hamby's services. Friends are invited to leave a comment on his tribute wall at <https://www.cochranfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Glenn-Leon-Hamby?obId=19617888#/celebrationWall>.

Donations may be made to Shady Grove Methodist Church or to people's favorite charity in Hamby's memory.

The Blairsville Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121 highlights National Cemetery Pre-Need opportunity for veterans



American Legion Magazine, May 2020 submitted by Jim Yohe, American Legion Post 121 (Jan2021)CA

Even as initial Desert Storm veterans recognize 30 years of wartime effort and COVID-19 impacts aging veterans, Blairsville Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121 desires to provide information on veteran services available at Veterans Administration cemeteries.

"Since not all veterans are members of American Legion, many local veterans may not have seen the information in The Legion's monthly magazine on pre-registering for VA burial and memorial services prior to death," explained Dan Wickersham, Post commander. "At one of the most difficult moments for a family, having established pre-need eligibility earlier can save effort and even money for grieving families."

According to the article from the National Cemetery Administration, even if a veteran has never received Veterans Administration care, normally the veteran, spouse and possibly their children are entitled to be interred in a national cemetery at no cost to the fam-

ily. The best, most effective way to ensure these benefits is through the VA program called Pre-Need Eligibility.

If a VA national, state or tribal veterans cemetery is selected, a veteran will receive: a gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, grave liner and perpetual care of the gravesite. Also included are memorial benefits such as a headstone, marker or cover for a columbarium niche. All are free saving the veteran's family thousands of dollars. Some family members may also be eligible, typically in the same grave or columbarium niche.

Veterans need to fill out VA Form 40-10007 either online or print a copy and mail to the St. Louis office indicated on the top of the form. The form and other pertinent information is available at www.cem.va.gov/pre-need. The services include National Guard or reserve who were mobilized or earned retirement.

Also, many VA national cemeteries partner with local veterans organizations to provide military honors includ-

ing playing taps, presentation of the burial flag and possibly a gun salute. Locally these services are provided by the North Georgia Honor Guard.

The article also mentions for veterans choosing a private cemetery a free government headstone, marker or cover should be available.

The American Legion is the largest and one of the oldest and most inclusive of all veterans' organizations worldwide, and commits itself to mentoring youth, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans. Most military veterans are eligible to join the American Legion. Members must have served at least some of their service on active duty.

Post 121 normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, except December, at the Major Leon Davenport Veteran's Center at 78 Blue Ridge Street in Blairsville. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM. Prospective members are welcome to attend a meeting.



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