

**American Legion...from Page 1A**



American Legion Post 121 is excited for what 2020 will bring, and its members continue to look forward to advocating for veterans in the community. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

war. The story is important to Gatlin because that pilot is connected with one of his deeply cherished memories from childhood involving a model airplane.

"He came in and got down on the floor in those dress whites, which made my mother cringe at the time, and helped put that airplane together," Gatlin said. "He probably did most of the work, but I can remember that picture right now as clear as it happened all those years ago."

"It's one of those things that I can remember about the war, and there are a bunch of other things I can remember, like the German prison camp in Miami."

The story tied into the ideas of the American Legion and its goals of honoring and remembering veterans.

For the remainder of the

meeting, members discussed events that they always put on throughout the year. One of these events is the annual golf tournament, which will be hosted on May 9 at Old Union Golf Course.

Goal for the organization in 2020 is to expand the reach of the Wreaths Across America program that they help with, and to expand the reach of other events in the community.

"Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad," according to wreathsacrossamerica.org.

The local post contributes to the Wreaths Across America

program at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, which this year will host its wreath-laying ceremony on Dec. 19.

Post 121 Cmdr. Mike Ayers said he and other members were disappointed with the results of last year's ceremony, as "they didn't have enough wreaths for all the tombstones, and that's sad."

"Anybody who wonders why we do this and why we get involved in Wreaths Across America, why we get involved with the Missing in America Project, where cremains have been sitting on shelves for more than 20 years - we are involved in that," Ayers said. "We go with the police and Mountain View (Funeral Home) down to Canton and do full military services for these guys."

Members of Post 121 will be at local festivals and events throughout the year to spread information on how to help area veterans. For more information on the organization and upcoming events, visit LegionPost121.org.

Regular American Legion Post 121 meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month except November and December, starting at 6:30 p.m. with fellowship at 5:30 p.m. at the Maj. Leon Davenport Veteran Building on 78 Old Blue Ridge Highway.

**UC Fire Dept...from Page 1A**



Fire Chief David Dyer demonstrating how to use the airway training mannequin the department purchased recently thanks to Vulcan's donation. Photo by Mark Smith

meeting with Chief David Dyer and crew as Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris looked on.

Sgt. Jonathan Fortenberry, who is in charge of medical supplies and equipment for the Fire Department, explained the importance of the donation that Tuesday.

"We've been needing an airway mannequin for a long time," he said, noting that the Fire Department purchased one after learning of the impending donation. "We wanted an airway mannequin that would do from the most basic maneuvers to the most advanced."

"This mannequin allows us to train anytime we want to. This mannequin does it all."

Chief Dyer reiterated the importance of the training device in preparing firefighters for life and death medical situations, highlighting that the majority of emergency calls answered by the Fire Department - upwards of 60% - are medical in nature.

"We go out and help the EMS," Dyer said. "The EMS actually does transportation when we get there. And there are a lot of times that we get there before they do, or we get there to cover until they get there."

"So, one of the things that we have to do sometimes is intubate people or put an

airway in or give them oxygen, and that's a perishable skill. You don't get to do it a lot, so you have to really practice it. Practice, practice, practice."

"We've been trying to do a little simulation, but there's nothing better than doing it with one of these mannequins."

A year ago, Vulcan donated \$2,500 to the Fire Department, enabling the first responder agency to purchase four Bluetooth-enabled cardiopulmonary resuscitation training mannequins and two automated external defibrillator training simulators.

Those CPR mannequins have been used throughout the community to train not only firefighters and first responders but also members of the community in the schools, churches and other public places, Fire Lt. David Ueltzen said.

CPR coupled with establishing and maintaining an airway are two of the most critical lifesaving skills that first responders perform, Ueltzen said, and maintaining those skills is of vital importance, which is why the Fire Department is so thankful for Vulcan's contributions.

For her part, Landrum said Vulcan was glad to help out once more in 2020.

"It's important to

Vulcan to be engaged in our communities," Landrum said to the firefighters. "I wanted to be able to do something again this year and keep that relationship, (continue to be) your partner here in the community."

"In 2018, we started that initiative across the company. It varies from the quarries that get to choose who they want to recognize, whether it be 911 or dispatchers or police or state troopers, even school resource officers, Fire Department."

"We're happy to be able to come back and do that again today and provide you with a pizza lunch and share a meal with you just to show you our appreciation."

**North Georgia Tech Board of Directors meet**

North Georgia Technical College's Board of Directors will meet at 3 PM on Wednesday, February 19, in the President's Home Conference Center on the Clarkesville Campus. For more information, contact 706-754-7702.

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