

# Quilts of Valor ...from Page 1A

in 2012.

"We have sent some quilts overseas to the chaplains at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (in Germany) to be handed out to the active-duty troops, and we have handed out more than 750 Quilts of Valor to the veterans in this local area here.

Nationwide, Quilts of Valor have been presented to over 246,000 men and women who are combat zone veterans of past and current wars, "and we are shooting for 300,000."

Each quilt made by the local guild members features unique styling, patterns and embroidery to set the quilts apart from one another, representing the uniqueness of the veterans receiving them — no two quilts are alike, just as no two veterans are alike.

Young read biographies for the veterans as each awaited his turn for the customary quilt wrapping and hug from volunteers, who always thank the veterans for their service with each quilt presentation.

Peterson, who enlisted in the Navy during World War II and was later recalled to active duty for service in the Korean War, reacted to his quilt by singing to attendees, causing everyone in the audience to fall silent and listen raptly.

And all of the veterans agreed that receiving their Quilts of Valor was a great honor, and one by one, they expressed their appreciation for the guild and its volunteers for making the quilts and supporting veterans in this way.

"This is more honor than I'm due, that's for sure," Shrum said. "Them making these and giving them out to us is really a nice gesture, and I'm happy to be part of it."

Shrum joined the Marines in 1976, attending boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, before continuing his training in Quantico, Virginia, after which he took assignments in Albany, Georgia, and then overseas in Okinawa, Japan.

The ceremony also highlighted for American youth the importance of service to one's country and answering the call to protect the freedoms enjoyed in the United States.

"This is just thrilling to

receive, and it really touches my heart and is something really wonderful for these ladies to do for us," Brown said. "Freedom is what this country was founded on and built on, and people should understand more what the veterans have done for them as far as the country goes.

"If it wasn't for the veterans, we wouldn't have a country. It is what we have done in the past to protect our freedom, and it is what people are going to do in the future to keep that freedom. It is the world of the youth, and it will be their world and it will be a free world.

"We don't live in a communist world, and that is because veterans have fought for their freedom. They are going to have to do that in the future, and they should be respectful of those that fought for them.

"You hear so many things like what happened in Vietnam and how those veterans were treated. People called it a crisis, and it wasn't a crisis — it was a war. We went over there and fought, and we fought for our freedom.

"Look at Vietnam today, though. We are at peace with them and they are great people. The veterans that fought there have gone through a lot, so we owe it to them to be respectful and appreciate them more."

Brown enlisted in the Navy in 1962 and spent 20 years in the military, during



The local Quilts of Valor Ceremony takes place quarterly inside the Union County Historic Courthouse. L-R: Charles "Charlie" Brown, Gerald Parker, Roy Kent Haney, Michael Glenn Shrum and Donald Lee Peterson.

which time he had many interesting assignments/deployments, including his time spent at Guantanamo Bay as Base Police and K-9 Kennel Master.

Gerald Parker was drafted in 1945 as a sophomore in high school, and he was deployed to Japan between 1945-46. He received several medals related to his time in the military,

including the World War II Victory Medal.

Roy Haney joined the Army in 1965. He deployed

overseas first to Germany for three months, then to Pleiku, Vietnam, from 1966-67. Haney was transferred to the Army

Reserves in August 1967, after which he returned home to Andrews, North Carolina.



World War II Veteran Donald Lee Peterson was extremely grateful and honored to have gotten a Quilt of Valor Saturday.

# "Queen For A Day" participants enjoy day of beauty



## "Queen For A Day" patients

A cancer diagnosis can be devastating. For women, cancer normally means hair loss, as well as loss of eyebrows, eyelashes, and even fingernails. Skin reddens and becomes extremely dry. Energy is sapped, leaving one feeling drained.

On Thursday, February 28th at Union General Hospital, twenty eight cancer patients were treated to the new "Queen For A Day" program.

The ladies were treated to professional, relaxing facials by estheticians of Dr. Pounds Plastic Surgery of Blairsville. Dr. Pounds himself provided free skin advice to the patients.

Then the ladies went to professional makeup provided by Roberta Ford, our local Mary Kay representative. They were matched up with makeup to enhance their beauty and make them glow.

Next, they were helped by Lisa Oswald of Goddess Revealed, the new wig shop located in Blairsville.

Afterward, they were assisted by our professional hairstylists who styled and shaped the wigs. Stylin n Flyin closed its shop and three addi-

tional stylists joined in so that all of the cancer patients could participate.

Photography was provided by Scott Anna, who has been helping cancer patients since we started three years ago. He placed a crown and a beautiful sash on each lady and gave each a bouquet of roses. To review all of the photos, go to Mountain Mem'ries Photography on Facebook.

The patients were then given a big bag of makeup which was collected by the community and friends. Patients were also given Revision makeup samples in another bag and Mary Kay products.

With all of this work, food was necessary. Special thanks to Dixie Confections Bakery for the delicious cupcakes and to Melissa's Custom Cakes for the cookies in the little bags. Our own local grocery store, Foodland provided us with homemade chicken salad to make sandwiches.

Union General Hospital provided us with the space, signs, assistance in loading and unloading and with lots of chilled water. The rest of the food was provided by our local Cancer Support group.

Everybody went home with a door prize. The prizes consisted of massages, restaurant gift cards, pedicures, Mary Kay products, breast cancer clothes and bibles.

Our special thanks to the following: The Massage Place, Goddess Revealed, Mountain Yoga, Stylin-N-Filyn, Cristy's Salon, Lovely Nails IV, Serenity in the Mountains, Nails by Cyndi, Fellowship of the Hills, Ingles Market, Foodland Grocery, Dixie Confection, Melissa Cakes, The Bean Pod, Alexander's, Rest Haven Florist, West Printing Company, Jay Rentals, Merle Norman, Roberta Ford and Kristy Wallace Independent Beauty Consultant, Copelands Burgers, Jim's Smokin Que, Blairsville Skillet Café, Sicily's, Michaelee's, Cook's Kitchen, Twisted Pizza, Downtown Pizza, Mike's Seafood, Fatz Restaurant, Brother's Restaurant, Papa's Pizza, The Bean Pod, Mountain Memory Photography and the office of Dr. Pounds.

Another "Queen For A Day" event will be held in six months. Please continue saving your makeup. For more information, please contact Pat Cook at 770-365-0975.

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## "Queen For A Day" volunteers