

North Georgia News

2 Sections 24 Pages

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Brown headed to prison for shooting at school

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
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Former school maintenance employee Dwight Anthony "Tony" Brown pleaded guilty last week for his actions that terrified the community on Aug. 11, 2022, when he discharged a firearm outside the Union County Primary School.

Brown, 66, of Blairsville, entered pleas of guilty to seven charges on Thursday, Nov. 9, inside the Union County Courthouse: five counts of aggravated assault, interference with government property and carrying weapons within certain school areas.

Enotah Judicial Circuit

Superior Court Judge Buck Levins handed Brown a sentence of 15 years, to include five years in confinement and the remaining time to be served on probation, as well as a \$2,500 base fine plus associated probation fees.

After transferring to a state penitentiary, Brown will get credit for time served since his Aug. 11 arrest last year, and upon release, he will face multiple probation conditions such as abstaining from alcohol and drug use, as well as having no contact with the School System.

The sentence was part of a plea agreement negotiated with the District Attorney's Office,



Tony Brown being escorted into the courtroom by UCSO Court Security Capt. Robby Brown Nov. 9. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

reflecting both the severity of the crime and the numerous calls for leniency Brown has received from members of the community.

Several of the many calls for leniency came during the sentencing phase Thursday. Judge Levins heard from an unusual mix of prosecution and defense witnesses speaking on Brown's behalf, highlighting the conundrum of how a man so highly considered could commit such a crime.

Two of the victims included in the criminal charges against Brown – fellow school employees who had been in the vicinity of the shooting – addressed the judge, portraying

Brown as a good man who had one really bad day and just made a terrible mistake.

One of the victims went so far as to say she would trust Brown with her life.

Brown's former supervisor at the school, whose work van Brown intentionally shot up with an "AR-type .223 caliber rifle" following a dispute between the men, also testified on his behalf, noting that the entire school maintenance department respected Brown.

The supervisor said Brown was his "go-to guy," having personally helped him on multiple occasions, and he hoped the defendant, whom he

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School Veterans Day program a patriotic success

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The staff and students at Union County Schools showed their support for the community's patriotic heroes on Nov. 10 with their annual youth-led Veterans Day Program.

Before the 10 a.m. presentation at the Union County Fine Arts Center, veterans were treated to a free, full breakfast in the cafeteria.

Following the posting of the colors by the 152nd Civil Air Patrol and the American Legion Color Guard, the Union County High School Band and Chorus jointly performed the National Anthem and Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A."

Each branch of the United States military was recognized for its unique role and hard work put in to defending the country. Afterward, the North

Georgia Honor Guard was called up on stage with some of their most prominent members.

When the Honor Guard started "floundering" in the 1970s, Frank and Florance "Flo" Ford raised \$2,000 to pay for uniforms and equipment. Frank designed their current patch and became the Commander of the North Georgia Honor Guard, assisted by retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Hamby.

After a lengthy battle with cancer, Frank passed away on July 31, 1995, at the age of 73, but his wife – now Flo Gerrard – continues his legacy at 98 years young. She and Hamby were there to grace the stage.

Today, the Honor Guard salutes veterans to make sure they receive full military honors at their funerals. They also present and fold flags, and recently, they've begun visiting

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Local Civil Air Patrol cadets were joined onstage by the American Legion Color Guard for the annual School Veterans Day Program Friday. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

Deklin celebrates 10th Birthday, continues brave cancer fight

By Daysha Pandolph
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The afternoon sun smiled upon the Blairsville Nazarene Church on Sunday, Nov. 5, as Deklin Jones tossed a football back and forth with his brothers on the lawn. A few feet away in the building, Deklin's family and friends gathered to celebrate his 10th birthday.

By now, many people

are familiar with Deklin's harrowing tale. Last December, he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a bone cancer, and the entire community stepped up to support him in his journey through chemotherapy and a curative surgery to amputate part of his left leg.

"The surgery was rough for him," his mother Tasheena Jones said. "Losing a limb is hard on a 9-year-old."

However, Deklin has remained positive throughout his health battle – even when he had to go through many rounds of chemotherapy in Atlanta, a type of cancer treatment that is notorious for causing nausea, fatigue, hair loss, mouth sores, loss of appetite and several other issues.

"It was rough to watch him lay there and be sick during (chemo), but then a couple days later he'd be back to his

smiling self," Tasheena said. "We were there three weeks out of the month, so we were home maybe a week at a time."

Not only was Deklin's ordeal extremely emotionally, physically and financially taxing on the family, but it was also very hard to trust the uncertainty of the process. The long-term survival rate of osteosarcoma patients who undergo chemotherapy is only

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Deklin Jones had a blast at his 10th birthday party, with family and friends attending Nov. 5. Photo by Daysha Pandolph

Historical Society honors longtime Union Countians



These residents have a special place in Union County's heart, as testified to by Historical Society President Mickey Cummings in a special reception Nov. 1. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, the Union County Historical Society honored 18 integral members of the community for their historical contributions, packing out the upstairs courtroom of the Old Courthouse in Downtown Blairsville.

As part of the proceedings on Nov. 1, Historical Society President Mickey Cummings presented these honored members – or their families – with engraved bricks that will be inserted into the walkway around the Historic Courthouse.

David and Marion Lifsey received their bricks together. The husband-and-wife duo are responsible for protecting historical land and structures, particularly around their home on Blue Ridge Highway.

Marion is the daughter of Sid Chandler, and she and David worked to restore the Sid Chandler Farmhouse back in 2016. Located near Meeks Park II, the home was originally constructed in the late 1800s and remains standing due to the love the Lifseys have poured into it.

Allen Conley won election to the office of Superior Court Clerk in 1984. Throughout the course of Conley's career, he witnessed history in action as great strides were made toward digital bookkeeping. In the six terms that Conley served, he never faced opposition.

The Historical Society's very own Patsy McCollum took to the podium to talk about her mother, Francis Henson, in a moving tribute that offered insight into how multi-talented

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Happy Birthday Deklin...from Page 1A

about 66%.

Because of this, when doctors gave the go-ahead on a curative surgery to remove the cancerous tissues, the Jones family was relieved. But they were also scared.

"It's been difficult, but him smiling and him being strong is what got us through it pretty much. It was really hard to take it all on," said Tasheena, who is a little nervous about their upcoming visit with Deklin's oncologist.

"We go for scans on the 15th of this month, and that's scary but I feel like he's good," she said. "I don't feel like he's

got it anymore."

After going through chemo and surgery, Deklin was last known to be in remission, which means the signs and symptoms of his cancer are reduced. Hopefully, his next appointment will prove that he is still on track to beat the osteosarcoma.

Now a fourth-grader at Union County Elementary School, Deklin has acquired a certain level of local fame for his battle with cancer, though he refuses to let the disease define him. His infectious personality

and love for gaming, school and friends is a constant reminder that his identity transcends his illness.

That Sunday's Fortnite-themed celebration not only marked a significant milestone as Deklin moved into the double digits with a grin, but also served as a testament to the positivity that permeates his remarkable journey.

Many different community members and organizations continue to stand by Deklin in this journey, such as the Union

County High School, which put on a parade for the then third-grader and encouraged students to shave their heads in support; the Cross Church, which hosted a bow-shoot for him; the American Legion and E911 Center, which are still currently doing a fundraiser for the Jones family; and, of course, Children's Scottish Rite Hospital.

"I'm just so proud of him, and he's my hero," said Deklin's grandmother Lisa Elliot. "We're just going to keep moving forward."

Historical Society...from Page 1A

a woman she is – and a hard worker, to boot.

Henson was the youngest child of 13, and at age 16 was married. While she never learned to drive, she walked with her children to school and swimming lessons.

Clarence Edward Gibson was born in Hayesville on July 26, 1937, but his family moved to Union County when he was still "very young." Known for his outstanding green thumb, he also served in the U.S. Air Force, as a bus driver, a Choestoe Baptist Church deacon and an herbalist.

With a colorful personality and love of gardening, Kathryn Litton served as an integral member of the Blairsville Garden Club for 43 years until its dissipation.

Litton proved instrumental in helping Blairsville become a "Tree City" for Arbor Day, began the tradition of decorating the Historic Courthouse for Christmas, and, among many other accomplishments, was selected for the Kellogg Career Enhancement Award.

Melva Lynn Drake was unable to be present for the ceremony but was nonetheless celebrated. She became a star basketball player in high school, and during her senior year, Drake's team only lost once, to Rabun County 44-48, with Drake scoring 40 of those points on her own.

She was also skilled at softball and enjoyed boating. According to Cummings, Drake's name is "synonymous with Union County Bank in its finest days."

Linda Fix was married before she even graduated high school. Her husband Bill served two years in the Army but eventually returned to the mountains, where Fix's dreams of becoming a mom finally came true with the births of Patrick, Amy and then Millie. Her love only grew after she became a "Nonny" to her grandchildren, then great-grandchildren.

Having been inducted into the Union County Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2019, Jim Allison's reputation is already a positive one. Originally hailing from Hall County, Allison grew up on a dairy farm and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in science and agricultural education at the University of Georgia.

From there, Allison earned a master's degree and became an education specialist as well as a full-time agriculturist. He also happens to be well-traveled thanks to mission work and was once Head of Technology at Union County Schools.

Bobbie Ann Weaver Payne is the widow of the late J.W. Payne and was once the youngest shop owner in Blairsville at the age of 19. Although she attended cosmetology school, Payne took up the practical but

difficult work of taking care of a family as a seamstress, making sure J.W. and their six children got three meals a day and helping her husband manage their dairy farm.

Still, Payne allowed her creativity to shine and made a business of cake decorating so that "some girl (could have) a very special wedding cake for a lot less than they could afford to make their special day even better."

Robert "Bobby" Jackson's family was known for the Jackson Service Station, but he pursued a different path in life. For nearly 50 years, Jackson made his living at the Robert F. Jackson Insurance Agency and has served as Kiwanis Club President among other civic and churchly duties.

In fact, Jackson still serves as an active deacon in the church he began attending at only 2 weeks old.

"He is one of the few people you can go to and talk about history in the late '40s, and he remembers," Cummings said, adding that Jackson continues to love Blairsville history. One of his fondest memories is roller-skating off Jackson Hill down the street into town before waiting for a car to pick him up and bring him back to the top of the hill.

A musical legend calls Blairsville home, and his name is Don Byers. His love for music began in the 1950s playing for his classmates, and he started professionally in 1961 as a founding member of the band "Strangers," performing alongside the likes of Conway Twitty, the Gatlin Brothers and other notable musicians.

By 2010, Byers was an honoree in the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame, and in more recent years, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Pioneer Award by the Atlanta Society of Entertainers.

F.C. Collins' familial roots in Union County date to 1834 when his great-great-grandparents settled in Choestoe to trap game. He was born in 1935 into a farming family and continued to hone that craft into his adult life.

At the age of 8, Collins could drive a mule-drawn wagon and play the guitar, and at 12, he bought his first heifer – whose descendants he still cares for today. At 17, he bought 100 chickens and made \$30 weekly in chicken and egg sales, and that's saying nothing of how busy he was caring for the garden.

In 1953, Collins was one of only three students in his graduating class to have a vehicle, a black Ford Victoria with an ivory top and matching fenders. He cuts hay to this day but also has a history of performing music at the Dixie Jubilee. In 1998, Collins was inducted into the Georgia Country Music Hall of Fame.

Hugh Stone Sr. practiced law in Atlanta before he came

to Blairsville and is still known by many as Judge Stone. By the time he became a local, he was "active in the community," a habit he maintains.

Stone served two years at Aberdeen Proving Ground, was stationed in Japan, and committed 19 years in military reserve before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Stone was the County's Chief Judge until his retirement in 2005.

Ruth Murrell is a familiar face around the Union County Senior Center and Farmer's Market for her handy crafts and outgoing nature. In fact, it's because of Murrell's efforts writing a grant that Union County has its current, updated Senior Center building.

"A lot of programs" were started by Murrell over the course of her 30-year career trying to bring cheer to the local elderly and often forgotten population.

Kathryn Genova Jones, known by her loved ones as "Kay," was born in 1936 in Pasadena, California. When she moved to Blairsville with her Union County-born husband in 1963, she immediately fell in love with local history and culture.

Jones owned and operated the Fabrics to Fashion store from the mid-1960s to late-1970s where the Jones Building now stands just off the square. At the inception of the Historical Society, she served on committees to keep Union County's history alive, hosted fundraisers and involved herself with the beautification of Downtown Blairsville.

Following her passing on Aug. 5, Bonnie Ledford's brick was presented posthumously to her family in her stead. Born in 1940 to Reid and Leila Warren, Ledford started working at the Board of Education at just 16 years old.

After 40 years, she retired, but found she wasn't the type to sit still at home and instead took up work as a bailiff. She volunteered with the Historical Society and the Community Council of the GMREC, and "always helped those in need" through monetary donations, meals or free advice.

Eleanor Smith's loss on Oct. 20 was still fresh on the minds of her family when they received her brick, but the memento was no less cherished.

Cummings, who spoke at Smith's funeral, worked with her for years after the opening of the Union County Canning Plant, which she helped keep running with frequent advice and hard work. Thousands of people loved the pound cake and jellies she sold at the Farmers Market.

After the program wrapped up, all recipients honored that day gathered at the front of the courtroom for a group photo before they and their family and friends headed downstairs for punch and cake.

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described as being "an honor and privilege to know," would always be his friend.

Even Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, who has been friends with Brown for decades, testified to the man's tremendous character, expressing bewilderment at the circumstances: "I still cannot believe that we're here today."

Mason informed the judge that Brown had been an "absolute model inmate" at the Union County Jail.

Faye Brown, Tony's wife of 44 years, wept as she recounted for the judge how her husband was a deeply devoted family man, an active member of his community, a lifelong hard worker and a helper to all, including strangers, saying that "he is the kind of man I praise God for."

Turning to Tony during her testimony, Faye said, "I'm thankful you're my husband, and I love you with all my heart."

Others testified to Brown's good standing in the community, including a longtime family friend who acknowledged that Brown needed to face the consequences of his actions but asked that the judge be lenient in sentencing for his family's sake.

Pastor Billy Nicholson of Pine Top Baptist Church, where Brown is a member, attended the sentencing as both a friend and a pastor to Brown, saying that he knew Brown to be regretful over what happened.

"I just want to say that it speaks volumes where you have the victims in a case be so articulate in support of the person who committed the offense," Defense Attorney Lydia Sartain said to Judge Levins. "I believe you have now a fuller picture of Mr. Brown."

"No doubt, that day was a chaotic day that was very scary for a lot of people, and Mr. Brown acknowledges and accepts responsibility for that. It's my hope that he will continue to do as well in the system as he has here and might slide through quickly."

The judge also took into consideration two letters submitted in support of Brown, who did not speak in this sentencing but appeared every bit a man racked with remorse, slumping in his chair and openly sobbing throughout the proceedings.

Interestingly, during

his first guilty plea, Brown told the judge he did not remember the shooting – he was found to be inebriated upon arrest – but he reiterated his criminal responsibility for the violent incident for which the prosecution had amassed compelling evidence of guilt.

"The court today has been called upon to consider and contemplate this case in the context of a man who has led an exemplary life," Judge Levins said, "who has a faith family and a family of coworkers and a community that he has loved and supported all his life."

"And that is certainly worth something – it's worth a great deal, and it gives the court every confidence that as Mr. Brown moves forward, he is going to be able to be successful and be returned to this community and continue to live that exemplary life that he, it sounds, demonstrated until and perhaps even to the exclusion of (Aug. 11, 2022)."

But Levins pointed to the severity of the crime having been committed on a school campus where educators and others – including a small number of students – were present, and which caused such alarm that the first day of the 2022-23 year was postponed by school officials.

"It is a security issue," Levins said, "and it is an issue of great importance to our community that every little boy and every little girl (and their parents) should have confidence that their schools and their children that they entrust to the government and stewards of this county are safe."

"And the facts speak for themselves, the grave tragedy and the criminally reckless conduct of Mr. Brown that day. I understand the context of that, too."

Judge Levins agreed with Senior Assistant District Attorney Buster Landreau that, given the nature of the crime, First Offender status was not warranted in Brown's case, despite no one being injured and Brown having no prior criminal history and an otherwise stellar reputation.

As a result of being denied as a felony First Offender, Brown will not be permitted to possess firearms once he completes his sentence due to his legal status as a convicted felon.

He will also be subject

to a Fourth Amendment waiver and other conditions while on probation, to include evaluation and treatment "for any substance abuse, anger management or other clinical or psychiatric health matters."

District Attorney Jeff Langley said after sentencing that, in securing prison time in a case where "our entire community was terrorized," plus the various conditions Brown must follow when released, his office had achieved its goals without having to go to trial.

"There was overwhelming evidence that Mr. Brown became angry at his supervisor, left work, consumed alcohol, retrieved a rifle, returned to the school, and fired multiple shots into a work van that was normally driven by the supervisor that he was angry at," Langley said.

Continuing, "Mr. Brown could not have known for sure that no one was sitting in that van. A bullet went through the back window, through the headrest, past where a driver would have been sitting. That's where those shots were fired."

"I don't know what Mr. Brown's intention was, whether he simply meant to intimidate and frighten and display his anger, or whether he intended to harm someone."

"But the result was – it was not a student day, but it was a teacher preparation day and had been an Open House earlier that day, with parents and students having come in and out of the school. The full contingent of school staff was there."

"And he fired this rifle (from his truck); the bullets landed only a few feet from the school building, multiple shots by a high-powered rifle. That caused the people inside the school to be in a state of terror."

"In today's day and age, where we all know of multiple school shootings where large numbers of people have been killed over the past 15 years, the people inside the school understood this to be a mass shooting incident. They were barricading themselves in classrooms (with desks against doors)."

"I have personally listened to multiple 911 calls being made by teachers begging and pleading for someone to come and save their lives because they were in the middle of a school shooting. That's what we had

going on here. Dozens of people were placed in terror by this man's actions, and that's why I could not agree to any sentence that would not involve some prison time."

"I was contacted by multiple members of the community who spoke on his behalf, that he didn't have a prior record, that he was known to be a good human being, and therefore wanted us to have mercy on him. Those concerns were taken into account."

"Believe me, someone causing a school to go into lockdown, and then, the scheduled start of the school year was postponed – and causing that many people to be in absolute terror, I'm going to ask for 10 or 15 years in prison but for the multiple reports I had of what an unusual and out of character action this was by this man."

"Therefore, the sentence recommended today was something of a compromise."

Langley thanked his Assistant District Attorney Buster Landreau for his hard work on the case; GBI Region 8 Special Agent Cliff Tippens; Union County Schools Police Chief Chad Deyton; the Blairsville Police Department; and the Union County Sheriff's Office.

He also expressed gratitude for UCSO Deputy Seth Dyer, who made the Aug. 11, 2022, traffic stop and arrested Brown without incident on the Downtown Blairsville Square.

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School Veterans Day ...from Page 1A



Hundreds of local veterans and members of the community packed the Fine Arts Center Nov. 10 in patriotic support of the School System's efforts to honor veterans for Veterans Day, which is Nov. 11 every year.
Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

Union County and Woody Gap schools to teach proper flag etiquette classes.

Retired Marine Walter "Walt" Scott helped organize one of those classes before he departed this world in August. His family said that, above all else, Scott supported his community and died doing what he loved, so it only makes sense that his legacy carries on.

Upon completion of the new Union County Elementary School, the flagpole out front will be dedicated to Scott, as revealed in the Nov. 10 ceremony. Scott's family, including his widow Sharon, stood and received applause from the audience, honored by the tribute to their patriarch.

On that note, School Superintendent John Hill presented a Certificate of Commendation to the Honor Guard for "the outstanding contributions and unwavering support (they) have provided to Union County Schools staff, students and community."

Following this was the student-run Quilt of Valor presentation to four brave men, each receiving a unique quilt as tangible thanks for their service.

Lt. Col. Dan Wickersham's service in the United States Army began in 1967, and he was among the top of his class. In 1969, he received orders from Okinawa and served as a Communications Technical Control Instructor.

Following active duty, Wickersham joined the Reserves, and he would later oversee United States forces to train the Jordanian Army. Wickersham may have retired in 2000, but in 2003, he assumed the role of Professor of Military Science at the University of Louisiana.

Staff Sgt. James Zellers was inspired to join the Army following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and he entered service as soon as he was old enough in 2007. He deployed to Afghanistan and served from 2009 to 2010, and again in 2019.

Zellers has been a master machine gunner, javelin instructor and hand-to-hand combat trainer. Today, he lives in Blairsville with his wife, stepdaughter and two sons, who support him as he recovers from his combat injuries.

Staff Sgt. James "Larry" Akins enlisted in the Air Force at the age of 20 in 1965, stationed at Dobbins Air Force

Base in Georgia. In August 1968, Akins was deployed to Vietnam, where he was a load master for cargo aircraft.

Akins transported men and equipment through South Vietnam and was honorably discharged in 1969. At home, Akins is known throughout the community for many different roles such as flight instructor, bank project manager, and past member of the Board of Education.

Cpl. Lowell Brinton entered the Marine Corps in 1956, shortly after graduating high school in Sarasota, Florida. He received training as a machine gunner and in anti-tank weapons, serving for six years before being honorably discharged in 1962.

Later in life, Brinton worked as a quality control supervisor for Electro-Mechanical Research Telemetry, a division of Weston Instruments, Inc. Brinton worked in the Skylab Space Program and had a hand in the making of the Gemini Spacecraft.

Union County High School Senior Noel Taylor addressed the crowd then to share what Veterans Day means to him. Taylor admitted that, despite coming from a family with generations of military involvement, he didn't quite grasp the importance of the commemoration until he grew old enough to understand what his uncles went through.

"I have come to appreciate (Veterans Day's) profound importance in the need to honor our veterans," Taylor said. "To me, Veterans Day represents the ideals of freedom, sacrifice and honor for all of those who have selflessly served in the military."

"Freedom is something that we can take for granted; it comes at a price – a price that our veterans have willingly paid for their countless sacrifices."

A special performance by the Union County High School Chorus utilized the tune of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" to lyrics altered by Navy Veteran Sailor Jerri. The moving song pushed many in the audience to tears as it described the struggles soldiers face on and off the battlefield.

"Too late to help, you hear a shot – you know you're in a deadly spot; you never thought this day would come, now did you? Your brother falls down to the ground, the enemy

is all around, and from your lips you scream a 'Hallelujah,'" one verse relays, driving home the losses associated with service and the chaos of battle.

Capt./Sgt. Maj. Ronald "Ron" Hill was also honored that day. As a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Hill is a direct descendant of someone who served in the War for Independence. Only this year, Hill was commended by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, though his service with the Army began in 1952.

Hill has experienced three wars: the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. With a career spanning 44 years, he has been involved in local, national and international executive management, and courageously faced combat until his retirement in 1996.

Over 81,000 servicemembers are listed as missing as of the end of World War II, spanning every war thereafter. About 75% of those losses are in the Indo-Pacific region, and 41,000 of those 81,000 are presumed lost at sea.

The Missing Man Table was set up to honor those who never came home, with a reason behind each item adorning the table, which is round to symbolize "the everlasting concern for our missing men," while its cloth is white for the purity of their motives to defend their country.

A single red rose represents the lives of each American lost in the line of duty, and for the families that continue to mourn them. Tied around its vase is a yellow ribbon, corresponding to the determination to account for missing brothers-in-arms.

A slice of lemon mourns the bitter fate of those captured and unrecovered in foreign lands, and a pinch of salt accounts for the tears shed by the missing and their loved ones. A glass sits inverted, symbolizing their inability to be honored at that morning's ceremony, and the chair is empty – their seat remains unclaimed.

In all, the attendance was staggering, proving how much the community cares for its veterans. And despite its bittersweet wrap-up, the program was a great success. Thank you, veterans, both present and missing, for the sacrifices made in the name of this great nation's freedom.

S.A.F.E.'s Holiday Shopping Expo set for Saturday, Nov. 18



Get a jump start on your holiday shopping at S.A.F.E.'s Holiday Shopping Expo Saturday, November 18th from 10 AM - 4 PM at the Conference Center located at 150 Foster Park Road, Young Harris, GA 30582. For more information, or to rent a booth at the event, please contact Vicki Franklin at 706-379-1901 or email: vfranklin@safeservices.org.