

9/11 Remembrance...from Page 1A

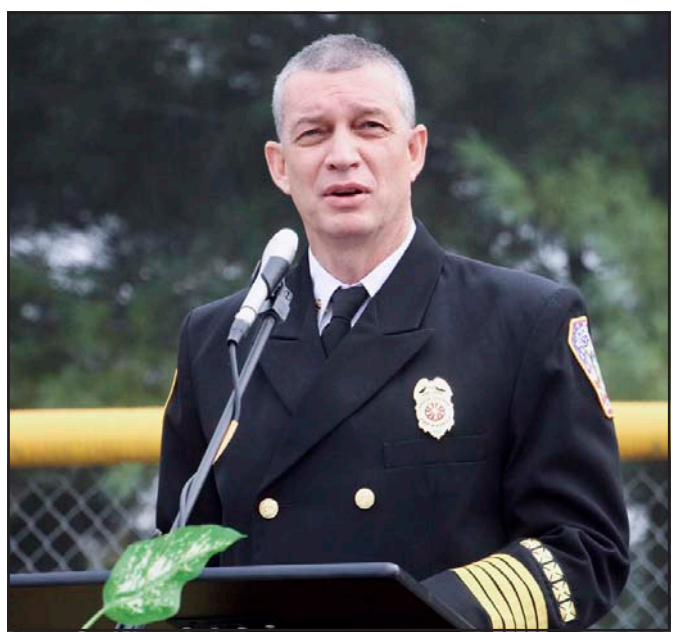
of State in the Diyala Province of Iraq, working "to help restore governance, essential services and transparent and open governance."

"He then served for a year at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, as the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development team establishing the Afghan Public Protection Force," Paris said.

Continuing his work with USAID, the diplomat currently serves as a Humanitarian Assistance Advisor to the military "and has served two tours in Amman, Jordan, working on the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis."

Moving on, Paris offered a timeline of events from 9/11, starting with the first civilian airliner striking the north tower of the World Trade Center, on through the downing of United Airlines Flight 93 by American heroes, the collapse of both towers, and the rescue efforts by first responders.

"If we need a reminder, it is that the fire, emergency management agency, emergency medical services, sheriff, E-911 (dispatch) and police/deputies are our first line of defense in a horrible event like this," Paris said. "You guys and ladies are



In his remarks at the Friday remembrance, Union County Fire Chief David Dyer proposed that people transition from mourning 9/11 to celebrating the heroism and courage displayed by Americans that day.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

all our heroes, because you all may have as a job (a) duty to risk your life for others. That sets you above the rest of us.

"However, we trust that, should another event like this ever happen in our country again, it requires that we all unite and work together as was

done following the events 19 years ago today."

In his comments, local EMA Director, 911 Director and Fire Chief David Dyer called for a different way forward for 9/11 remembrances, one that focuses less on mourning and more on celebrating the "ideals

of heroism, of American unity and the American people."

"If you think about it (the firefighters and first responders of 9/11) pulled off the largest rescue of all time," Dyer said. "Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from those buildings – they got them out."

"After Sept. 11, everyone was reminded about the duty, the service, the dedication, the sacrifices and the dangers of the fire service and first responders. They went there and they performed that rescue. And it makes me proud to be part of a profession that has the duty, honor and courage that was demonstrated that day."

"So, after 19 years, what do we do now with 9/11? I think we need to move past the mourning and start to honor the lives that were lost, and we need to celebrate the heroes. We need to keep our promise of 'Never Forget.'"

"We who were there and saw it and heard it, we need to remember the images, need to remember the sounds, and we need to remember everything that happened that day, because we need to teach it to the next generation."

"We need to teach them what happened – what really happened – don't let history be skewed. We need to tell them,

these are the facts, these are the events, these are the lives that were lost, and these were the sacrifices of that day."

In closing, Al Haywood of Pathway Christian

Counseling performed an a cappella rendition of "America the Beautiful," and many in attendance joined him in singing the uplifting song.



Ladder 1 of Union County Fire Department proudly flew the American flag in the foggy morning of Sept. 11, 2020.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard



On Friday, Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris walked everyone through the tragic timeline of events from Sept. 11, 2001, to remember those who lost their lives 19 years ago. Also pictured: Derrick Hartley and Al Haywood.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Union County Deputy EMA Director Brent Long with Firefighter Steven Tanner at the 9/11 remembrance last week.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Nearly 100 people attended the fog-shrouded 9/11 remembrance event in Union County on Hamby Field Friday, Sept. 11.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Commissioner Paris recognized his friend Mike Stewart Friday, highlighting his diplomatic efforts in the Middle East following 9/11. Also pictured: Blairsville Police Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter and Union County Sheriff's Capt. Doug Loyd.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard