

Allegheny Lodge...from Page 1A

"There is a special common bond in the service for those who served in combat," Tackett said. "Loneliness, hardships and yes, even the smell of fear and death that binds us together."

"We of the North Georgia Honor Guard deem it an honor and privilege and our solemn duty to do a final salute for those that have gone before us."

Also in the meeting, the Lodge celebrated Past Grand Master Johnnie M. Garmon and New Grand Master Jan Giddens, both of whom received specially folded American flags during the ceremony.

Garmon lives in Union County and enjoys membership at the Allegheny Lodge. Over the last year, he served as Grand Master for The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia.

In recognition for his service, he also received a flag from Ground Zero of the World Trade Center and a rivet from the Twin Towers, presented by Danny Fink of the Pickens Star Lodge, himself a 9/11 first responder.

"I don't want to get too personal," Garmon said to those gathered, "but I have known Worshipful Brother Fink for seven or eight years,

and I have seen him struggle because of what he was into as a first responder without proper equipment.

"I can't tell you exactly how much time he has been in the hospital over the last two months because of injuries that occurred at Ground Zero. And for you to give this to me, that is almost too much to take, Danny. We are honored to have you here."

Allegheny Lodge Worshipful Master Ivy Smith led a presentation on the meaning and history of Masonic titles and how they have changed over the years.

"The title of Worshipful Master is a term given today to mean the presiding officer of the Masonic Lodge," Smith said. "But in the 1500s, such a title meant honorable and reputable, applying to a person who was distinguished in regards of character and rank."

"By the 1700s, to call a man worshipful was honorific and offered temporary designation applying to person or bodies of distinguished rank or importance."

Concluding the event, each veteran in attendance received a token of appreciation and service in recognition of their importance to the country and community.



Allegheny Lodge Worshipful Master Ivy Smith, center, with veterans in the Nov. 2 special ceremony at the Lodge Hall building in downtown Blairsville. Photo by Jarrett Whitener



The North Georgia Honor Guard consisting of area veterans was on hand to honor fellow veterans in the Allegheny Lodge ceremony last week. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center Employee Recognition

Georgia Mountain REC and the Community Council have the pleasure of recognizing Clare Johnston for the Dobson-McDowall-Mays Award of Excellence. Mrs. Johnston has worked for the University of Georgia for 16 years, working as a technician for the Council and now as an agricultural research technician focusing on horticulture research support. Her vast skillset has proved invaluable to both programs, ensuring their overall success. Mrs. Johnston was recognized for this achievement on Oct 26 and selected by both her peers, UGA admin and the Council.

Jim Dobson, Sonny McDowall, and John Mays are the honorees of this award and were instrumental in the creation of the Community Council. Today the Council continues to work closely with GMREC, supporting its mission and providing educational opportunities to adults and children.

In years past over 4000 children per year received standards-based enrichment through several programs in K-6. The Council also maintains a public ethno-botanical garden that highlights the uses and benefits of native plants. "All of the employees at GM-



Research Technician Clare Johnston and Superintendent Ray Covington

REC are crucial to the success of the Council. Together we strive to promote the center, offer meaningful outreach programs, and worthwhile educational opportunities. The Council and I are pleased to recognize one of these employees, Clare Johnston for this year's award" said Community Council Chairperson Doug Towery.

The "Experiment Station" and the Community Council would like to thank previous Superintendent Joseph Garner and the families of Dobson, McDowall, and Mays for their continued

support.

Georgia Mtn REC is a part of the University of Georgia system supporting agriculture related research for over 90 years. Specialists evaluate best management practices and new varieties of forages, ornamentals, and fruit that address today's challenges in agriculture. Being a Land Grant University, UGA freely shares this information to the public through the County delivery system at your local County Extension offices.

Find us on Facebook @ GeorgiaMountainREC or online at www.gmrec.uga.edu.

Friends of Libraries presents only book sale of the year



COVID-19 has limited the ability of Friends of the Libraries of Towns County to host fundraisers for the Towns County libraries. However, their need for support continues, prompting FOLTC members to get creative about how to meet the communities' desire to shop our incredible book sales and generate funds for the libraries.

FOLTC will be sponsoring the first ever "Honor System Book Sale" at the Book-

store in Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris. The more you buy, the more the libraries and communities will benefit! ALL books are being sold at reduced prices!

Mountain Regional Library is only open to the public on Mondays and Thursdays, as is the FOLTC Bookstore. Therefore, the sales will be held on Nov. 16th, 19th, 23rd, and 30th, and Dec. 3rd, 7th, 10th, 14th, and 17th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each of these days.

There will be NO volunteers on site during the sale, so it will be the honor system. There is a secured red Money Box inside the bookstore where shoppers will place their payments. Only correct change or checks made out to FOLTC will be accepted. Money donations and membership renewals are also en-

couraged. Bags and boxes will be provided for the shoppers' convenience.

COVID-19 regulations are in place. Face masks covering mouth and nose will be required. Only 10 people or less will be allowed in the Bookstore at one time, and social distancing is requested. Please wait patiently outside the entrance or in the foyer if 10 others are shopping ahead of you.

The Friends are hoping that this type of book sale will prove to be successful for our libraries as no one knows how long the pandemic will continue. Our communities are so fortunate that our libraries are even open to the public this year; that is not the case everywhere. So please shop at the bookstore during this stupendous sale and help support your libraries!

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Wells at gospelthecat@yahoo.com or Marcia Aunspaugh at aunspaugh1196@windstream.net.