

Bowman...from Page 1A

student with a 3.9 GPA and a 1350 SAT score, which helped him to earn a full academic scholarship worth more than \$400,000 to go toward covering all four years of tuition costs at the academy.

"The United States Coast Guard Academy is the smallest of the service academies but ranked among the nation's most prestigious institutions of higher learning," said Sot. "And over 60% of the cadets that attend the Coast Guard Academy play varsity sports.

"Brendan will enter into the second year of the new cyber systems program. Of the 300 cadets, about 60% of them want to get into cyber, and the cyber program only accepts about 25 cadets. Brendan is one

of 10,000 students to be selected as one of the 300 appointments for the class of 2023.

"Coast Guard appointments are solely based on merit, therefore, only the most qualified applicants are selected through a holistic review process."

After Bowman signed his letter of intent, he celebrated by posing with his family and friends for pictures, and everyone joined in for cake and refreshments.

"I have always wanted to go to one of the service academies since I was 8 years old," said Bowman. "It's been a shared dream with my mom and dad.

"I originally wanted to go to the Naval Academy at



Bowman surrounded by family and friends on his big signing day with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy last week.

first, but when I took my visit to the campus at the Coast Guard Academy and saw how the humanitarian efforts run and how their branch is run, I just loved it, and I love their campus."

Continued Bowman, "I'm going into cybersecurity. I would like to get a career with the Port Security, which is one of the Coast Guard's Special Forces units. My family also wanted me to go to the Naval Academy, but after they saw the Coast Guard Academy, they fell in love with the Coast Guard

as I did."

Bowman will leave for the Coast Guard on June 29, and

on July 1, he will swear in as a cadet and officer-in-training in the U.S. Coast Guard, after

which he'll complete nearly two months of basic training before beginning his education.

Photo by Chad Stack

Missing...from Page 1A



The start of the escort at Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville on April 24.

to participate," said veteran Dennis Bible. "These guys deserve to be remembered. When we get down to the National Cemetery, the ceremony that they perform to honor these guys brings tears to your eyes. It's very moving, and I'm honored to be a part of this."

Veteran Darrell Rich also joined the procession, and it was his third time doing so.

"I'm expecting there will be a bunch more," he said, adding that he was very happy to see a lot of his old friends that had turned out for the long, nonstop, Union County Sheriff's Office-escorted ride.

Military veterans came from towns and counties all around Blairsville to honor their found brother-in-arms and to bring him home to his final resting place.

The Christian Motorcyclists Association, the American Legion Riders, the Combat Veterans Riders and, of course, the Patriot Guard Riders were all well represented at the Mountain View Funeral Home parking lot as the time for "kickstands up" drew near.

A memorial card was passed through the ranks of veteran bikers as they waited to get on the road, and everyone present, civilians included, was encouraged to sign it.

Veteran Reuben Baumgardner of Holly Springs said that the memorial ride was not just for veteran bikers, that anyone who wanted to participate in honoring a lost veteran by joining the memorial ride was welcome to come along.

Following the memorial ride, Poirier said that all along the way to Canton, drivers slowed down and moved over to let them pass, and people gathered on overpasses to salute or wave. He said even drivers going in the opposite direction slowed or stopped to show their respect.

Poirier shared a letter with the North Georgia News written to him by May's niece, Lori Roldan, the day after the event.

"The funeral you, your MIAP staff, and all the police department volunteers, including funeral homes, every single biker and civilian and our soldiers gave him was incredible," said Roldan. "It left me speechless, and that is hard to do.

"I was never so proud of my servicemen and women as I was yesterday. I now can start my healing process."

The story of how the remains of AIC May were discovered is an interesting story all by itself.

Two men riding on a train in New York overheard two ladies sitting in front of them discussing a veteran whose remains were sitting on a shelf at a Georgia funeral home.

The two men, being familiar with the Missing In America Project, looked up the MIAP website at miap.us and checked for contacts in Georgia and found Poirier's name. They contacted Poirier, but he needed additional information.

The two men were able to get a cellphone number for

AIC May's niece, Roldan, who was visiting Florida, and passed it along to Poirier. Poirier then contacted Roldan, who gave him the names of the funeral home and the funeral director in Gainesville.

Poirier contacted the funeral director and confirmed that AIC May had been cremated. MIAP then took

over and, within days, had confirmation that AIC May was indeed a veteran.

MIAP then sent a registered letter to May's next of kin in New Jersey requesting permission to have AIC May laid to rest at the Georgia National Cemetery.

And the rest is history.

Photo by Mark Smith

25th Anniversary Dinner & Silent Auction



The Relay For Life Team of the First United Methodist Church invites you to our 25th Anniversary

Dinner & Silent Auction on Saturday, May 11, 2019, at 6 p.m. in the MAC. The tickets are \$20 a person and include an Hawaiian-themed dinner, a silent auction and great entertainment to kickoff this year's Relay for Life! We will only be selling 240 tickets, so get yours early. Please see any Relay Team Member for tickets, or contact Glenda Taylor at 706-781-7528 or Ingrid Engle at 561-358-6199. We hope to see you there! N(May123)CA