

# Memorial Day...from Page 1A

Memorial Day. "For many years, our forefathers and mothers had left big cities like New York and Chicago, and small towns like here in Blairsville, here in Union County, and went to fight

for our nation's freedom." Continued Hack: "Many of those that didn't return, they died in the fields of Gettysburg, the hills of Kennesaw Mountain. They died on the beaches of Normandy, in Korea, Vietnam,

Iraq and Afghanistan. Although many of those casualties were buried in areas where they died and remain today, they are never forgotten." The crowd stood as the local Boy Scouts of America

Troop 101 carried a memorial wreath to its resting place in the park, and closing out the ceremony, Chaplain Bill Honaker led the group once more in prayer with the benediction. "Father God, you yourself have taught us that no love is greater than that which

gives itself for another," said Honaker. "These honored dead gave the most precious gift they had, life itself, for loved ones and neighbors, for comrades and country."

Honored guests in attendance at the ceremony included retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Roy Hamby, who served as Grand Marshal in the 2018 Memorial Day Parade; Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris; Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley; Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, himself a Vietnam Veteran; and District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Leaders of the various veterans' service organizations in Blairsville at the May 26 Memorial Day program.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

VFW District 2 Cmdr. Richard J. Hack was the keynote speaker at the 2018 Memorial Day Ceremony in Union County.

