

Leadership...from Page 1A

Nichole Green, Erin Huffman, Jack Lance Jr., Chad Lariscy, Stephen Mullis, Dana Nelson, Rick Siefken, Adina Swanson, Janice Walters-Taylor, Dr. Jeremy Williams, and Pam Worden were each presented with certificates by Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

However, Paris said, the purpose of the Leadership Union goes far beyond a piece of paper.

The 13-week course develops leaders for Union County, that strive to reach a higher quality of community life.

The leaders and future leaders of this year's class come from a diverse background in business, industry, governmental, and others.

Over a span of three months, the 18 participants needed to identify and enhance their individual leader-

ship styles through training sessions, discussion panels, field trips, and a community service project.

For example, last month's Airport Awareness Day was the brainchild of the Leadership Union Airport Team, consisting of Walters-Taylor, Mullis, Collins, Dyer, and Huffman.

The Leadership Union participants also explored various aspects of the local community including government, economic development, non-profit organizations, and more to help create this diverse group of emerging leaders.

The Graduation Banquet featured Keynote Speaker 9th District Congressman Doug Collins (R-Gainesville) along with program remarks from graduates Brown and Worden.

Rep. Collins challenged

the graduates to be a river, not a reservoir.

He went on to stress that successful people know their purpose in life, grow to achieve their maximum potential and sow seeds that will benefit others.

"Be a river, not a reservoir," Rep. Collins urged the group. "Understand what significance is. Significance is adding value to others."

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce holds the Leadership Union in an effort to enhance the quality of life in our community, and seek to develop leadership qualities in individuals who have the potential to affect great, positive change in Union County through their particular economic, civic, and social responsibilities and interactions with current and future contributing members of our community.

"When I first decided to be a part of Leadership Union 2014, I did not know what to expect," Worden said. "But these last 13 weeks have been much more than what I expected."

"I thought I knew everything there is to know about Blairsville and Union County, but I've actually learned more," she said. "Not just about Blairsville and Union County but the people I shared this class with."

Chamber President Cindy Williams gave a special thank you to Tobie Chandler and Patrick Malone for all of their hard work in putting on the Leadership Union program.

"Tobie, with the help and guidance of Patrick, really pulled this off," Williams said. "Don't give me or anyone else in the Chamber any credit, it was all Tobie. She is phenomenal."

Patriots...from Page 1A



SAR members would load up their muskets and fire off a shot into the gray skies that overlooked the Historic Union County Courthouse in remembrance of Patriots Day.

According to SAR members, Patriots Day wouldn't be on April 19 if it hadn't been for the events that happened on April 18.

At approximately 10 p.m. on the evening of April 18th, 1775, Silversmith Paul Revere along with a young shoemaker named William Dawes, and Dr. William Prescott set out on horseback across the Massachusetts countryside to alert the Colonial Militia of the approaching British forces, who had learned that the colonists were hiding weapons in Concord, and sought to arrest their rebel leaders.

You've heard the story, "the British are coming! The British are coming!"

On April 19, 1775, the *Shot Heard 'round the World* began the American Revolutionary War during the Battles of Lexington and Concord. That day will forevermore be known as Patriots Day.

On Saturday, despite threatening clouds and a shower or two, Union County held its Annual Patriots Day observance in and around the Historic Courthouse.

Members of the SAR and DAR joined David Cook, president of the Sons of the American Revolution Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, which also covers Towns, Fannin, and Gilmer counties, to pay tribute to Union County's

Fourth Patriots Day observance, as declared by Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

"April 19th 1775 is a momentous day in the founding of our Nation," Commissioner Paris said. "I want to thank David Cook for his work and the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for making this possible."

House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison (R-Blairsville) and his wife Regina stopped by the Historic Courthouse to visit with these Patriots in a show of support for Union County's Patriots Day remembrance.

"It's an honor for me to be invited to come over today and help celebrate Patriots Day, the history in our country, and what it means to the people here at home, and to remember all of those that served, so it's just a great honor to be a part of this day, and I appreciate the invitation," Rep. Allison said.

According to Cook, not only is Patriots Day an important day in our Nation's history, April 19th was a critical day in our state's history as well as they also celebrated Georgia Patriots Day on Saturday.

Three years after the *Shot Heard 'round the World*, on April 19, 1778, three Georgia Navy galleys encountered three British ships on the Frederica River near St. Simons Island.

After five hours of battle, the Patriots captured the British ships, a victory that gave Georgians a special reason to recognize Patriots Day.

The naval victory over the mighty British Navy, combined with Paul Revere's Midnight Ride, galvanized the hearts and minds of reluctant Georgians in favor of the American Revolution in the court of Public Opinion.

Georgia went on to memorialize these Patriots by naming 64 counties, including Habersham, Hall, Gwinnett and Pickens counties, for numerous figures of these historic times.

Habersham honors Joseph Habersham, a leader of the Liberty Boys in Savannah, who broke into the powder magazine in 1775, and seized Sir James Wright, the colonial governor at the time.

With this rich inheritance, we demonstrate honor for the named Patriots, as well as the many other men and women who fought and supported the American Revolution.

The importance of remembering Patriots Day and the sacrifices made by our Founding Fathers and early American Patriots is perhaps summed up best by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, *Paul Revere's Ride*, which he penned in 1861.

The poem opens with, "Listen, my children, and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of Paul Revere. On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five; hardly a man is now alive, who remembers that famous day and year."

Longfellow's poem concludes with, "Through all our history, to the last. In the hour of darkness and peril and

need. The people will waken and listen to hear; the hurrying hoof-beats of that steed. And the midnight message of Paul Revere."

Confederate Memorial Day



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris inks the proclamation declaring Saturday, April 26 as Confederate Memorial Day in Union County. Observance of the Confederate Memorial Day will be on Saturday at Veterans Memorial Park in Blairsville at 11 a.m. Photo/Charles Duncan