

# Happy Birthday, Marine Corps turns 240



**By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer**

The United States Marine Corps celebrated its 240th birthday on Tuesday, Nov. 10, and local veterans gathered at Daniel's Steakhouse to share a meal and ceremony together.

Although the celebration of the founding of the Marine Corps is a cheerful occasion, things quickly took a sobering turn when Walt Scott of the Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment 783 performed the Prisoner of War Ceremony.

"All Americans can never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served in the cause of freedom in a special way. There are many, many men still missing who have been presumed dead or have been captured and are still there," said Scott.

He said that Marines rarely allow fellow soldiers to fall into the hands of the enemy.

"Most of the men who have been killed were actually brought back by Marines who were alive. We never tried to leave anybody behind, whether they were wounded or dead," he said.

Each set piece in the Prisoner of War Ceremony has significance.

"We have a missing hat from a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action, and we also have a Marine hat from Afghanistan. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty. The single red rose, displayed in the vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and the loved ones and friends of those Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers," Scott recited.

"The vase is tied with a yellow ribbon, symbolizing our determination to account for our missing Marines. A slice of lemon is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and the families who seek answers. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith. The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast. This chair is empty; this Marine is missing," he finished.

After a toast to those men captured or missing in action, Lt. Col. Bill Lyon Jr., USMC (Ret.), read aloud a message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller.

"When the Continental Congress raised up two battalions of Marines in 1775,

it launched the greatest fighting force the world has ever known – a force revered globally for its uncommon valor, unparalleled adaptability, and ferocious tenacity. Over the past 240 years, the battlefields and equipment have changed, but the spirit of the United States Marine Corps has prevailed in every clime and place," the message read.

Neller's message not only remembered the veterans of past wars, but also credited those men and women currently fighting all over the world.

"Whether you served on the hallowed grounds of Belleau Wood, fought on the iconic island battlefields of World War II, navigated the harsh terrain and climate of the Chosin Reservoir or Vietnam, conducted assaults during Desert Storm, marched on Baghdad, fought in close combat in Fallujah, or conducted combat operations in Afghanistan, everyone who wears the Eagle, Globe and Anchor is a member of that storied Legacy," read Lyon.

At the end of the night, the Marines had a cake cutting ceremony. Once the cake was cut, the oldest Marine present, Tom Reid, 91, passed a slice to the youngest Marine present, Duane Sieck, 57, to symbolize the passing of the honor, experience and heart of the Corps to the next generation of Marines.

## Clarification

In an article entitled "Chief Carroll: 'Shop with a Cop donations appreciated'" that appeared in the Nov. 18, 2015, edition of the North Georgia News, the paper reported that some children were paid for "out of pocket" last year. The article should have stated that all shopping occurred using funds 100 percent donated to Blairsville Shop with a Cop, which is true for every year.

That new album doesn't have a name yet, but that's just part of the process for Chesnutt.

"After the last song is finished, and we're sitting back listening to all the playbacks, to a rough mix of the whole CD – then we'll sit there and we'll start thinking about what we should call that album," said Chesnutt. "Everybody has their input, the management, the engineer, everybody that's been involved in putting this thing together."

Chesnutt still lives in his home state of Texas, where he is raising two of his boys while his eldest son completes secondary training in California as a recently graduated member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Joe Diffie is known for his many hits, including "Third Rock from the Sun," "Pickup Man," "Girl Ridin' Shotgun," "Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox (If I Die)" and many more.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28, in Anderson Music Hall at the Fairgrounds.

be happier.

"I often wonder – why did the good Lord not give us grandchildren and great-grandchildren sooner so we could have enjoyed them longer?" said Cobb. "Why couldn't he have given them to us first?"

Today, the medical world is full of new and exciting technologies that have changed the field dramatically since Cobb first became a nurse.

"I was raised on pen and pencil," said Cobb. "When I went to nursing school, we did everything with a pen and a pencil. We carried notepads in our pockets, we did all our charting on paper, and now everything is computerized."

Cobb has embraced the ever-advancing technological challenges of her job, though at home she lives a wonderfully private life without the Internet, Facebook or even a personal computer. She keeps an emergency cellphone in her backpack, but that's about it.

And if Cobb could have chosen any other profession, she'd probably be celebrating her 50th anniversary this year as a veterinarian instead of as a nurse, because she loves to work with animals and has two cats of her own.

She doesn't plan to retire anytime soon, but when she does, she said she wants to spend more time with her family, as well as move to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana, where she has done mission work in the past.

"There are so many things that I want to do, there's so much more I want to accomplish – I want to be productive and work as long as I can," said Cobb.

# Army Veteran Shellenberger receives Quilt of Valor

On October 23, 2015, with his wife Deidre, family and friends present, it was an honor for the Misty Mountain Quilts of Valor Outreach members Jeannine McNeil and Linda and Jim Gorman to present a Quilt of Valor to Mr. Robert Shellenberger, Jr., a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran. Mr. Shellenberger was nominated for the Quilt of Valor by his wife, Deidre Shellenberger. He was presented his quilt at the Destiny Alpaca Farm in Young Harris, GA.

Robert Shellenberger graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1958 and received his Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering and Information and Control Engineering from the University of Michigan. During his long military career, Col. Shellenberger while in the United States flew B-52s, and C-130s in Vietnam and Thailand. He taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy and was Director of Training, HQ 21st Air Force (MAC) at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

Medals and awards in-



**Deidre and Robert Shellenberger, Jr.**

clude Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal w/2 OLCs, Air Medal w/2 OLCs, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Combat Readiness Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Palm, and Vietnam Campaign Medal w/5 OLCs.

Quilts of Valor are presented to those veterans and active duty military who have served in combat zones. The patriotic quilt presented to Mr. Shellenberger, Jr., represents a thank you to him for what he has done to defend and protect our nation. Each Quilt of Valor presented is registered with the National Archives.

# Mistletoe Market is a homerun for area



**By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer**

With the Christmas season right around the corner, the 16th annual Mistletoe Market opened over the weekend at North Georgia Technical College in Blairsville with more than a thousand visitors in attendance for the two-day show that ran Saturday, Nov. 21, and Sunday, Nov. 22.

The Mistletoe Market, presented by the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild of Hiawassee, is the guild's third and final show of the year, coming on the heels of the Celebrate Autumn show in September and the Mountain Fling in June.

The show featured handmade items ranging from pottery, paintings, woodworking, fiber arts, fabric art, jewelry, wreaths, soaps, sauces and rubs, skin care, floral, yard art, furniture and holiday gifts, decorations and much more.

This year's show also included Woody Gap Schools' steel drum band that only added to the weekend's festivities, according to the Arts and Crafts Guild's Wendy Holden.

"The turnout has been fantastic and all of the vendors are happy," she said. "The steel drum band from Woody Gap was great. The kids were great, the director was great and they were embraced by everyone that was here and it was wonderful. Everything has just been perfect."

While the current construction at North Georgia

Tech limited the amount of space available, the turnout among vendors was similar to last year's, and with no complaints. The majority of the vendors reside in the Tri-State area with a handful from South Georgia and Florida.

"The feedback is, 'what is here is great,'" Holden said. "The customers are happy with the quality, the variety and the prices. I think we hit a homerun."

The show, which is in its 16th year, was originally held in Hiawassee, but as the show began to grow, it was moved to North Georgia Tech to allow an increase in the Guild's income.

Once again, the Mistletoe Market was a huge success for Hiawassee's ArtWorks Artisan Centre's Artwork Store along with its Children's Arts and Crafts Summer Program. The program, which begins when school lets out for the summer, allows every participating child the opportunity to create and be exposed to different types of art. The guild also offers classes for adults year-

round. The Guild supports and promotes its working artist and crafter members from the North Georgia and North Carolina mountain area. The 60-plus members work in many different media and over 40 of the members are also a part of ArtWorks Artisan Centre.

ArtWorks is a retail store selling the work of Guild members, and also houses the classrooms where guild members teach, sharing their expertise with students on a regular basis.

The store is located at 232-B Chatuge Way in the Hiawassee Business Center, just east of downtown Hiawassee. On Hwy 76/75, turn at the waterfall sign beside the Dairy Queen. They are located in the second building on the left.

All the artists represented in the store are members of the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild.

For more details, contact the store at (706) 896-0932.

# Ticket..from Page 1A

Chesnutt broke out onto the Country Music scene some 25 years ago with his hit single and record by the same name, "Too Cold at Home," which launched him onto the national charts.

Since then, he's charted 30 singles, had eight No. 1 hits, put out 11 studio albums and is working on his second Greatest Hits compilation as well as a brand new studio album with all new recorded material.

And from the time he could pick up an instrument as a young boy, Chesnutt knew he wanted to be in the music business.

"I kind of planned on it that way," said Chesnutt. "I could see myself being a Country star or Rock 'n' Roll star. I loved all types of music. I grew up listening to Country Music – Hank Williams Sr., George and Merle. My momma was always playing the Rock 'n' Roll records, she loved Elvis Presley and Fats Domino, and all these guys like that. She loved Jerry Lee Lewis.

"And my brother, who's five years older than me, he was bringing home records by Aerosmith and ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and I was soaking all this up. All this music was going on at the same time at my house, plus, my daddy was a singer and a songwriter, played guitar, and my brother played Rock 'n' Roll electric guitar. When I was just a little bitty kid I started playing drums. I'm not saying we were like the Carter Family or anything like that, but we all loved music, and I was like a sponge. I soaked all of those different styles up."

Chesnutt is excited to have been in the studio of late, putting the finishing touches on his new album that will be coming out next year.

"We're going to have a brand new CD with all freshly, new written Honky-Tonk Country songs," said Chesnutt. "Nothing rap, not the formula that you're hearing on the radio right now, but the type of music I've always done."

# Cobb...from Page 1A

Gowder presented Cobb with a lovely Citizen watch as a gift of appreciation for her lifelong dedication to the medical field.

"It was a great, wonderful party," said Cobb. "Food, cakes, presents. Mike Gowder is phenomenal, a wonderful person. It all made me feel so special. Union General has been so good and supportive to me, especially since my husband passed. I can never say enough praise about Union General. It's been a wonderful career. I've made many friends in the past, and friends are more precious than gold. It's just been great."

Cobb, 71, was born and raised on what is now known as Richard Russell Scenic Highway in Union County, and she has attended the same church all her life, Union Baptist Church.

After graduating from Union County High School in 1962, Cobb decided to go to nursing school in Atlanta in order to embrace her love for people.

"I wanted to take care of people that could not tend to themselves," said Cobb. "I wanted to be helpful in some way, to make a difference."

Upon completion of nursing school on May 17, 1965, Cobb took state board exams to become a registered nurse, and looking at her options, she nearly joined the Peace Corps, which was recruiting nurses at that time.

Cobb attended Peace Corps meetings and was all set to go – she just needed to sign on the line and she would be on her way to some unknown

stretch of the world.

But something told her to come home instead, and in September of 1965 she returned to Blairsville.

She accepted a position as a nurse at Union County Hospital on the old Hospital Street near Downtown Blairsville, and she's been helping to heal the people of Union County ever since.

Cobb soon after married her high school sweetheart, Roger Cobb, who had joined the Army and was posted in Germany after graduating high school while Cobb attended nursing school.

Roger moved back home following his military service, and the two tied the knot on Oct. 7, 1967.

And the Cobb Family continues to grow, as Roger and Bonnie's two daughters, Jeannie Nelson and Sarah Copeland, each have children of their own.

Nelson's son, Blake Webb, is 9 years old, and her two stepchildren are Seth Nelson, 19, and Sarabeth Nelson, 16.

Copeland's kids are Chelsea Forsyth, 21, Ty Copeland, 12, and Gracie Copeland, 11.

Roger, the longtime owner/operator of Blairsville Upholstery Shop, passed away four years ago, but Cobb has been happy to embrace the full circle of life, she said, as she is expecting her first great-grandchild in January 2016.

Forsyth, Cobb's granddaughter, will be giving birth to Dillon Jacob Forsyth, and Cobb couldn't

# Accident..from Page 1A

lane of GA 515 when the accident occurred, according to a preliminary report from the Georgia State Patrol.

A logging truck that had been traveling west on GA 515 was sitting in the right turn lane in front of the Golden Pantry, waiting for oncoming traffic to clear before turning right onto US 129/GA 11, according to the GSP report.

Logs from the logging truck were partially in the right westbound lane of GA 515/SR 2, and the Tundra struck the logs with the right windshield area of the pickup, resulting in the fatal injuries of Davilasasvin, according to the GSP report.

The logging truck had "a flashing amber light on the longest log in the middle of its load that hung off the rear of the trailer approximately 16 feet, with a flag attached to a log on each side," according to the GSP report.

The Tundra carried a driver and two passengers, all with the same last name, according to the GSP, and

the other passenger was transported from the scene with critical injuries.

The accident is still under investigation, and fault has not yet been established, according to GSP.

# Fannin County Tea Party Patriots to meet

The Fannin County Tea Party Patriots will meet at the Fannin County Senior Center located at 440 West First Street in Blue Ridge, Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 6 PM for a meal and 6:30 PM for a meeting. The speaker will be our Georgia State Senator Steve Gooch. Everyone is welcome. Please call 706-374-1188 if you have any questions.

GSP Trooper Jason Bradburn responded to the accident.

Additional information was unavailable as of press time.

# HAMs meeting

Attention HAMs and anyone interested in Amateur Radio: the North Georgia Tri-State A.R.C. (Amateur Radio Club) meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Branan Lodge on Wesley Mountain Road in Blairsville. All of our meetings are open to the public. Our next meeting will be held on December 1. For more information about joining the Club or becoming a HAM, contact Alan Zimmerman (AJ4YH) 706-781-3160.

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