

ute to the men and women who died while in the service of our nation. It was a day first set aside to honor those who gave their lives during the Civil War and was later expanded to include those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in any war or military action in defense of our nation.

State Sen. Jim Butterworth, of Habersham County, a U.S. Air Force veteran, who represents Towns County in the Georgia State Senate, delivered the day's keynote address.

"Hot dogs, hamburgers, the slow ride down the lake and NASCAR can wait," Butterworth said. "That's what Memorial Day means to most. For those of us here today, we're here for a different reason."

Butterworth came to talk about heroes, true heroes whose actions withstand the

scrutiny of time.

"Today, we remember those who gave their lives in the countless conflicts over the history of our great nation," Butterworth said. "We remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country and our way of life."

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton was there to remember on a day set aside to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"I'm proud of the people who came out here today," Clinton said. "One day a year is really not enough to honor our fallen veterans."

"I stand here looking at Grady Nicholson's marker (a Clinton relative) and I realize that there were so many people from Towns County that paid that price," Clinton said. "There aren't enough words to describe how I feel about Memorial Day."

go through the doors of opportunity," he said. "God be with you Class of 2009."

The seniors, with the young men dressed in blue gowns and caps and the young ladies dressed in white gowns and caps, were greeted by a capacity crowd at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium on Friday evening.

The class of 2009 raised the bar in terms of scholarship dollars. The 72 seniors leave with more than \$1 million to further their educational endeavors.

Also, for the first time since 2004, the school experienced co-valedictorians: Amber Allen and BreeLee Garrett. Kayla Osborn was the historian for the Class of 2009.

Allen told her fellow seniors that the future is here.

"We make it happen," she said.

Allen reminisced about memories that will last a lifetime: the Governor's Cup, an unforgettable football season, an incredible ride for the Lady Indians' basketball team and a season to remember in Cross Country.

"These are all examples of how hard work pays off,"

she said. "And we'll always remember that we have been blessed to have lived in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains."

Historian Kayla Osborn recounted the steps that this class took to reach graduation day. Those steps included "too many tests, a trip to the Final Four for the Lady Indians' basketball team and an historic season of high school football."

"And the girls' Cross Country beat Athens Christian," she said.

Co-Valedictorian BreeLee Garrett told her fellow classmates that on Saturday morning they would begin a new adventure — "life's journey."

"There's always a mountain to climb," she said. "We've climbed one mountain tonight."

"It's time to get out into this world and make our footprint," she said. "Don't ever let others live your lives for you and always remember that true character is what we're doing when no one else is looking."

Following a thunderous applause by the capacity crowd, the Class of 2009 became Towns County history with the Class of 2010 anxiously waiting in the wings.

going to yell to her aunt who was marching in the parade.

Quincy's aunt is Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, who walked the parade route with planning committee member Deb Edwards. The women carried a banner for the City of Young Harris. When asked what it was like to be a new mayor marching in the city's first parade, Gibby replied, "It's very exciting!"

Edwards added that they are already looking forward to next year.

The parade was led by Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, who called the parade wonderful. "It is a good thing," he said.

The parade ran from Plott Town Road to Brasstown Valley Resort. It included classic cars, horses, and a fire truck. There were possibly as many people in the parade as there were watching it. Still, the procession was short, sweet, and over quickly.

One spectator, John Presnick with Kenneco Computers, joked, "It was better than last year's, and it will be better next year."

The parade ended at the Stables in Brasstown Valley Resort [BVR], where they were holding their second annual Horsin' Around BBQ Showdown.

BVR administrative assistant Karen Rogers said the two-day event showcased a barbecue cook off (Kansas City Barbecue Society style) won by Jack's Old South BBQ from Vienna, Ga., as well as including a chainsaw carvers compe-

tion, a ribs cook off, and a chili cook off.

BVR general manager Charles Burton said the stables had more than 2000 people attend the showdown. He said the resort primarily threw the event to promote tourism in Towns County.

Burton said some of the proceeds from the Showdown went to S.A.F.E., and next year's event will be based on the success of this year.

Of course, outdoor events are always dependent upon the weather. While the parade and barbecue showdown were blessed with dry skies, the rain finally began to fall late Saturday afternoon during a fundraising dinner and auction held for Family Connections.

Nonetheless, a small crowd of Towns County's elite braved the elements to support the event and enjoy a meal cooked by champion barbequer Bub-Ba-Q of Jasper. Towns County Family Connection director Amy Gibby Rosser said their organization provides a local mentoring program (much like Big Brothers / Big Sisters) and an outdoor adventure program for children, grades 1 thru 12. In addition, Family Connection holds presentations at the schools on issues such as substance abuse prevention, violence, and bullying.

"We are pleased Brasstown Valley Resort wants to partner with us, give us proceeds, and help us out," said Rosser.

Voting...from page 1

hours to cast ballots during the 45-day period prior to a general election, primary or special election. The legislation becomes local law following the second reading and approval in June by Commissioner Kendall.

Those hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Tuesday, the hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Again, these voting hours will be enforced in the 45-day period before an election. The lone exception is the Monday prior to Election Tuesday to allow for preparation and set up for Election Day.

Regular hours for the Election Office will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday with an hour of scheduled lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Kendall also is looking for more space for locals to cast ballots during early and advanced voting sessions.

He is exploring moving voting into the county's law library to allow more space for an additional voting machine during early and advanced voting. In its current location, the county only has room for two voting machines.

There is room for three voting machines downstairs in the law library, Shook said.