

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:
The Matter of Patriotism
 As regular readers know, we had a wonderful ceremony at Foster Park on Veterans Day. All veterans were recognized and honored and WWII veterans, especially the brave men who fought at Iwo Jima, were singled out for remembrance with a special sculpture for all to see and appreciate into the indefinite future.

In my remarks, I stated that, "We never have to fear being insulted or assaulted here because of our military service." I have personal knowledge that both affronts occurred elsewhere, especially to Vietnam veterans. This remark was made in memory of people I knew while growing up here and others met since returning in 2004. However, I was wrong! Mr. Jobson has apparently appointed himself as a committee of one to monitor public life in Towns County and censure all who deviate from his narrow views and the Jobson version of "truth." You may remember his previous tirades about religious services in public buildings.

In this recent sweeping generalization, he writes, "The trouble with patriotism is it usually blinds the possessor with a fast and loose version of the truth," rants about my presentation and attempts to justify his own activism and opposition to America's various military involvements.

I wish Ol' Lance could have managed to learn some manners during his lifetime and developed enough judgment to express himself civilly when he writes to the newspaper. Of course, he is entitled to his opinion and I respect his right to be wrong. However, I am proud to be an American patriot as were my fellow veterans, our families and friends at Foster Park that day. I am deeply indebted to an America where I grew up poor but found the means to work my way out of poverty and deprivation. Our folks recognized the value of education, and today, of six adults in my immediate family, two have earned doctorates and the other four of us have Masters Degrees. All of us practice hard work, frugal living and good management and as a result have achieved high levels of success. Consequently, I treasure my country for giving us these opportunities that are still available today for all responsible persons who seek them.

While war protesters and draft dodgers hid behind facades of college campuses or fled to Canada because many of them were too timid to wear a uniform, others of us made the necessary sacrifices and served even after we realized the cause was clearly wrong. My service was what I believed citizenship and commonly accepted tradition required of me. Given a choice, I would do it all over again!

Wm. Ronald Gibson

Dear Editor:
 In response to Mr. Lance G. Jobson's letter of December 9, 2015, he is the one that should check his facts. Lt. Colonel Gibson was correct in his statement that English pilgrims settled Jamestown, VA, in 1607. One definition of pilgrim is "a person who travels on long journeys." One hundred members of the Virginia Company founded the first permanent English settlement in North America on May 14, 1607, in Jamestown.

Lt. Colonel Gibson's claim that Vietnam vets were assaulted by anti-war protesters is also correct, unless you don't consider being spit on an assault. Mr. Jobson's claim that thousands of Vietnam vets threw their medals away would imply a large percentage of returning vets did, and that's ridiculous.

Mr. Jobson's claim that the attack on U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf of Tonkin never happened can be discredited by a little internet research. Many of us were drafted and did a tour in Vietnam. We didn't burn our draft card, throw our medals away, seek a college deferment or go to Canada.

Mr. Jobson, we proudly fought for your right to write that cowardly attack letter of December 9 and for you to have the privilege to sleep soundly at night knowing you are protected by the brave men and women of the United States armed forces. Our heroes are people like Lt. Colonel Ronald Gibson, not Jane Fonda, Mohammad Ali and yourself.

Mike Roberts

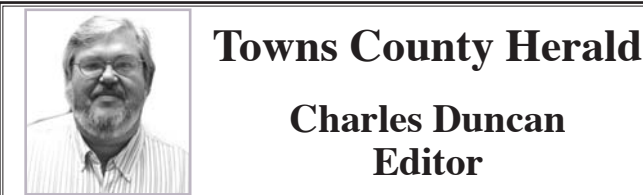
Letter to the Editor:
 I am writing this letter as a concerned and somewhat frustrated property owner in Towns County. In recent months there has been construction activity on a property located on Hwy. 515 between Habitat Restore and Townsend Mill Road. This property is on the right just before crossing into Union County. I was happy to see what appeared to be improvements being made to the property, when in fact it looks much, much worse than before any construction began. My understanding is that this is a 22-acre tract and that a new business license was issued for a sign company at this location.

Shortly after construction activity began, truckloads of scrap cars were parked and unloaded on this property. There is no visible evidence of a sign company doing business there.

I, along with other property owners in the vicinity are concerned about a decline in our property values due to this unsightly location. I cannot understand why a new business license would be issued without verification of the actual business. In addition, most importantly, why Towns County would allow a scrap yard to be located on the main highway and in full view. This is the first thing you see driving into Towns County and the last thing you see driving out. There are currently two scrap yards in the county, both located in Hiawassee, directly on Hwy. 515.

Does Towns County really need a third?
 I have noticed a (very) partial fence being put up. However, it does not begin to obstruct the ugly view. If the county is going to allow the business to remain, even though the business license issued is not accurate, I would like to see a full fence put up surrounding the property to obstruct the ugly view from Hwy. 515 as well as Townsend Mill Road.

Sincerely,
 Kathy M. Foster



Towns County Herald
Charles Duncan
 Editor

Jimmy Wright - larger than life

Jimmy Wright was a larger-than-life figure. He patrolled the streets of Hiawassee and our county for 25 years. He kept us safe from harm and brought law-breakers to justice.

And let's not forget he was Christmas for many an underprivileged youngster. As the children and law enforcement volunteers came together for the first time to celebrate Shop With a Cop - without Jimmy Wright, his memory and his spirit was felt everywhere in Hiawassee and Towns County.

Hundreds - including many from the law enforcement profession - came to the mountains last week to pay their last respects to the man who left a lasting impression on a community and its people.

Jimmy Wright was not only our police chief he was our friend. He was always the face of Halloween on The Square, along with Sheriff Chris Clinton.

Christmas was the time of year that brought the largest smile to Jimmy Wright's face. It was then that he enjoyed the many smiles on the faces of the young ones that Shop With a Cop rewarded.

The other 11 months were spent raising funds for the program and of course keeping the peace within the city.

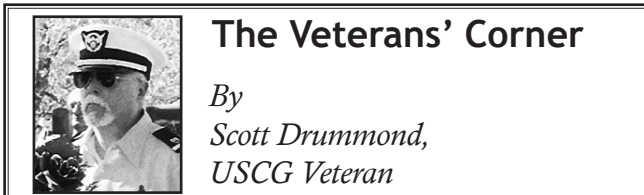
It is with a heavy heart that I compose this column. Jimmy Wright was a close personal friend of mine. Due to medical reasons, I was unable to attend Jimmy's viewing at Banister Funeral Home, and his funeral at McConnell Baptist Church.

However, from the moment I heard the news about my good friend's passing, I've shed many tears in remembrance of Jimmy Wright.

Jimmy left an impression on me. That's what friends do. I'll never forget the man who welcomed me home in 2008, as I became the editor of the *Towns County Herald*.

Hiawassee PD's Shop With a Cop now holds a stronger meaning for this community and me. The spirit and memory of Jimmy Wright will live on each Christmas and we'll miss him 365 days a year.

So long dear friend.



The Veterans' Corner
 By
 Scott Drummond,
 USCG Veteran

From Frontz Goring's heart

Hiawassee's Frontz Goring served honorably in our USAAC, and is a much loved friend.

My brother, William Edward Goring was born December 23, 1923. He entered high school weighing about 100 pounds. Leaving high school he stood six feet and weighed 195. I opened that way because everything he did was in that fashion. We played all the sports: baseball, football, and hockey and won all the marbles from neighborhood kids. He was my center on our Football team at 90 pounds. He loved baseball and could tell you every batting and pitcher's records for almost every player on the Detroit Tigers Team. At Cass Tech, where we all attended, he studied drafting; was so very good combined with an ability to express himself that he was selected for sub-teaching. Ending his senior year he was assigned to the Chrysler Tank Center as Draftsman. Most everyone there were College Grads. That job was exempt from World War II draft. After a while he felt that he was not doing enough to defend our country so he decided to enlist. First to the Marine Air Corps, they examined him and told him he could not fly, virtue of a hernia. Undaunted he went to the Navy and got the same response after a physical. He still had the job at the Tank Arsenal. What would you expect from someone as dedicated to God and Country? He went and had a double hernia surgically repaired. Now he was ready for the Marines and the Navy. First he went to the Marines, showed them the operation was done. A new exam and eye test revealed color blindness. Another rejection from the USMC. So re-approaching the Navy, same results. You would think that two such refusals would have told him to stay with the Tank job. Not Bill! He enlisted, took basic training and was assigned to General Patton's Third Army. The first letter I got from him asked me to back his story to Mom and Dad that he was driving a supply truck. He did not want them to know that he was trying to find a dry fox hole in a German forest with Patton's Third Army. He was involved in the Battle of the Bulge. (You can put that Battle up on the computer and be prepared to see some of the worst images you can imagine. I have two GI letters from foxholes and two death notices for my Brother one by Franklin DO Roosevelt and one by Harry Truman. Each has a different date regarding his passing. Backing up just a bit, my mother prior to receiving the death notices had received a notice that he was a prisoner of war. That was false! She really suffered through those terrible days. Even worse for Mom, on one of those dates, a bittersweet, very emotional January 13, 1945, I was married to my beautiful Mason, WAAC.

Bill was my best friend... I miss him always!

Semper Paratus



GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED

TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*
Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!
VFW Fish Fry April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7. \$10 per plate.
Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.
Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 1 p.m.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.
Democratic Party of Towns County meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountymdemocrats@gmail.com.
Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.
Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.
School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
Hiawassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.
Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.
The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.
Towns County Board of Elections holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).
Towns County Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.
Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiawassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 706-896-0932.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcutg.org.
Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: meets every Friday and Sunday evening at 7 at Red Cross Building at 1293 Jack Dayton Circle. 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.
The Humane Society Mountain Shelter Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.
The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407.
The Appalachian Shrine Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 PM at the Shrine Club, Industrial Blvd., Blairsville.
GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbas-

ketweavers.com.
Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76. 706-896-3637.
Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building on Jack Dayton Circle.
Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.
Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.
Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.
The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meets the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.
The Quilting Bee at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.
Mountain Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.
Monday morning BINGO at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.
Towns County Lions Club meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee.

Towns County Herald
 Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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