

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Wow! What A Wonderful Lady!

Lois Bouton represents the very epitome of what most of us can only dream of trying to become. She enlisted in the USCG as a SPAR, the Coast Guard's Women's Reserve in 1943 and served as a radio operator throughout WWII. After

**The Veterans' Corner**  
**Scott Drummond**  
USCG Veteran



WWII she made her home in Illinois returning to her job as a teacher, and I'll bet a really great one! Sometime in 1974 Lois began writing letters to those serving in our USCG all over the globe. She remembered how many of our Coasties were assigned to remote, far away, isolated duty stations and light-house duty from her time in our USCG. Even those of us who were assigned to cutter duty and spent months on patrol for law enforcement, SAR, security of our nation, drug interdiction, and any other mission imaginable, appreciated seeing that USCG chopper arriving with mail from loved ones. Lois sent over 100,000 cheerful letters to Coasties world wide, bringing smiles and uplifting morals of those who just may not have received any good news from anyone else. The USCG awarded Lois Bouton the CG Distinguished Public Service award and made her an Honorary Master Chief Petty Officer, on her 100th birthday. She also has her writing desk and a permanent display set up at our one remaining USCG Training Center (boot camp), Cape May, NJ.

Lois was also a 75 year member of The American Legion Post 1122, Illinois, which she helped to charter in 1947. Our Supreme Commander called her Home at her "youthful" age of 102 on February 5, 2022 while in Rogers, Arkansas. Truly an amazing fine, Patriotic American who never took a break from serving our Sovereign Republic. Another icon of our Greatest Generation.

Shifting gears a bit, on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 4:00 PM our VFW Post 7807 and American Legion Post 23 honored all Veterans who served during the Vietnam War era. That day, March 29th is officially National Vietnam War Veterans Day, as sanctioned, not as an official holiday, but to be recognized for honoring those who served "in country" as well as anywhere on earth during the 20 years of the Vietnam conflict, declared as "over" on March 29, 1973 when MACV was disbanded and our last combat troops came home. For many who have seen the face of war, up close and personal, their scars and internal struggles are never "over". There were over a dozen veterans who stood one at a time, and told their own emotional stories of what they experienced and felt during their tour of duty in Vietnam. To be expected most were U.S. Army Veterans. This very moving, honorable ceremony was a genuine heartfelt experience for all who attended. Mel held an open forum for anyone and everyone to speak. Needless to say there were a few tears shed, and even held back. And we opened with a humble, sincere prayer and closed, likewise. Let us never, ever forget that our men and women who have served Honorably in uniform are exclusively the reason we are all here today.

-Semper Paratus

## Letters To The Editor

### Really!!!

Dear Editor,

A lifelong friend of mine, who is addicted and trapped in technology hell, recently gave me a laundry list of updates regarding people who went to our high school. Social media was his source, along with a few tweets and text messages thrown in for backup. High school wasn't yesterday. As a matter of fact, it wasn't even last year; 50-plus years ago would be more accurate. He had some very interesting news to relay to me.

Diane, who we went to high school with, is on a cruise ship heading to Alaska. Bob had an ingrowing toenail cut out and posted the pics on a social media site. Bill retired, and announced to the world he was moving to Wyoming. Nancy, another high school friend, reiterated facts about her nasty divorce and happily announced her upcoming marriage. If memory serves me well, this one will be number four.

Hearing these names and trying to conjure up images of what they looked like in high school dredges up the truth regarding these so-called friendships. I don't remember them ever being my friends, or having little, if anything, to do with me. Yet, because of social media, everyone reaches out to the world, claiming kindred fellowship and shared interest. We celebrate how many friends we have on social media, both real and imagined. Few people call anymore with congrats, happy birthdays, get-well thoughts or anything shared with voice or visits. Emojis now represent our deepest thoughts, wishes and convictions. If an emoji can't express what we need or want to say, then it must be too old-fashioned to begin with. Go on social media, express a somewhat related thought or wish, throw in a few thumbs up, smiley faces, broken hearts or whatever. That will get the job done every time.

Gene Vickers

## Heroes Work Here!

Dear Editor,

We want to take this opportunity to thank the folks of the EMS system and personnel at Chatsuge Regional Hospital, Emergency Department, in Hiawassee, GA.

My wife experienced shortness of breath and chest pains on a Sunday night, we contacted the folks of the EMS system in a 911 call. The helpful duty officer's directions to the EMS base was exceptional. There at the base, the Paramedics were calming and reassuring. After completing their assessment, they reassured us the situation was under control and we could continue on to the ER.

At the Emergency Department, the personnel began patient assessment of the issues my wife was experiencing. Dr. Davidson and his whole staff began procedures to narrow down the health problems. The tests were very thorough, and each was handled by a very professional, compassionate and caring person. The event lasted five hours. Dr. Davidson explained the entire event in very plain and understandable language.

The folks of Towns County are very fortunate to have a team of dedicated health care professionals. As the sign out front says Heroes Work Here! Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,  
Walter & Olivia Liddell

## The Heirs of Ozymandias

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!"

Nothing beside remains

round the decay

Of that colossal wreck,

boundless and bare,

The lone and level sands stretch far away."

Shelley's poem gives us a stark image of hubris, laid low by the inexorable passage of time. History abounds with stories of pride and its inevitable fall: The sun did finally set on the British Empire. Hitler's "Thousand Year Reich" ended within a decade. Khrushchev told the West, "We will bury you," and a generation later the Soviet Union was no more. Now the "world's only superpower" looks nervously over its shoulder at the growing economic and military power in Asia.

Empires rise and invariably they fall, but this inevitability is small comfort when we're struggling to swim in the rapid currents of a changing world, unable to cling to the eroding banks of cherished traditions and institutions.

The American empire is only an infant compared to past empires. Egypt is heir to a cultural heritage that stretches back at least 5000 years. The Romans were in power for a millennium, and recently an unknown civilization was unearthed in northern Greece that lasted from 6000 BC to about 60 BC. Locally we find mounds, petroglyphs and artifacts that are remnants of the Mississippian culture which stretched from Minnesota to Texas to Georgia and lasted over 700 years. Arrowheads are found in Georgia that date back to the late Pleistocene period over 13000 years ago.

There is hardly a stone anywhere on the globe left unturned by a prior civilization. Every "native" population is the heir or the conqueror of a previous group of people. There are pyramids in Egypt, South America and China, stone henges all over Western Europe, crumbling cities, tombs and ruins all over the world. Layer upon layer of the disjecta membra of vanished civilizations points to one inescapable conclusion: The material world is forever changing. There is nothing new and nothing permanent under the sun.

We are not the first people and we will not be the last to fear change or to lament it. We are not the first, nor will we be the last, to expect the world to end any day. War, famine and pestilence come and go, and we continue. Tyrants rise and fall, and our humanity survives inhumanity. The climate changes and we adapt. Devolution precedes evolution, precedes devolution, but after every transition, enough of us survive to start over again. Global warming will increase the number of deaths due to heat – but it will also reduce the number of deaths due to cold. Deserts will grow in some places while in others, frozen land will become arable.

For some of the heirs of Ozymandias, change will be tragic. For others, it will be the adventure of a lifetime. Perhaps this is, after all, the key to surviving change – the willingness to adapt to it. Some will deny change and resist it – and they may perish, but the children of those who adapt will be around to read the inscriptions on our own crumbling monuments.

## Outside The Box

By: Don Perry

worldoutsidethebox.com

## Bear Wise

Black bears are becoming active again. While people enjoy having them around, it's important to remember that these animals are wild. Sometimes, when you see the bear time and again you may feel a personal connection to that bear. That feeling is probably not reciprocated. Interactions with bears are inevitable to a certain level, so let's talk about what to do if you see a bear and the steps that you can take to make sure that your home doesn't become a playground for bears.

Firstly, it's important to remember that we live in an area with copious amounts of national forest. That means black bears are out there. Hopefully, though if you encounter one you'll know what to do or how to make your space less attractive to them. Bears will typically live 8 to 15 years. The females can weigh up to 300 pounds and the males over 500 pounds. The females will give birth in their den in late January. Those cubs will stay with the mother until the following spring when she kicks them out.

Bears are omnivores meaning that they eat whatever is easily available depending on the time of year. Their natural diet is berries, fruits, acorns, grasses, insects, and even mammals. Bears can be attracted by the smell of human food if there is not much natural food available for them. Bears are naturally afraid of humans. However, bears that have been feeding on human food lose their natural fear of people, and become a danger. Bears will usually remain in an area where food is readily available, so the best way to make sure that bears don't move into your backyard is to remove the sources of food.

Never feed bears either intentionally or unintentionally. They will learn where food is available and become a nuisance for you. Make sure that your garbage is in a place that they can't reach. That means leaving it inside the garage or if you're out camping hoisting your trash in the air or putting it in a bear proof trashcan. Bird feeders can attract bears because of the high calorie content in bird feed. Bring your bird feeders in when bears are active. Usually by the time bears are active there is plenty of natural food available for birds. Don't leave pet food out. Just give your outdoor pets enough food for one feeding. If you have a grill, clean and store it after use. Bears will be attracted by the smell of your grill so keep it out of reach for them. And finally, let your neighbors know if you see a bear so that they can take precautions too.

Most bears are not aggressive, unless they have been fed by humans before. Bear relocation is usually not an effective control option. Bears that are relocated might be moved to an area that another bear has already claimed, leading to territory fights, or the bear may try to return to its home and be struck by a vehicle. Relocation is a last resort.

If you do encounter a bear in the open make yourself look big and wave your arms and shout while backing away slowly. Do not get between a mother bear and her cubs. If you are attacked fight back aggressively with anything you can get your hands on. Bears can be dangerous but know that there are no recorded fatalities in Georgia.

If you have questions about bears in our area contact your local Extension office for more information or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA extension  
Watching and Working  
Jacob Williams



## Letters To The Editor

### American "Exceptionalism"

Dear Editor,

How is it that President Biden gets away with accusing President Putin of being a war criminal, when Biden has voted for every U.S. illegal war of aggression, invasion, occupation and secret operation since before 9/11? Biden, as member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, vice president and president voted for illegal wars on Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Serbia, Syria, Yemen, Ukraine and other sovereign states. Biden has blood on his hands as top war strategist and today's commander-in-chief, responsible for decades of wars, mostly by deadly bombings and drone missile strikes. This includes the death of innocent civilians in the millions and for which no U.S. leaders have been held to account. The laws prohibiting wars of aggression are simply ignored under a cloak of American "exceptionalism."

Fact: Biden, over the last 22 years, is responsible for committing more war crimes than any other imperialist leader, including Putin. Fact: Biden and Obama supported training and supplying weapons to terrorists, see: Operation Timber Sycamore. Biden and cohorts used war as a means of justifying racist refugee injustice, detaining alleged terrorists without charge, controlling oil, mining and human resources, torture, black site imprisonment, regime change, spying on citizens, locking-up whistleblowers, weapons proliferation, supporting killer regimes in places like Africa and Latin America and other crimes against humanity.

Then there is the not so little matter of Biden's corruption and why did his drug addicted son, Hunter Biden, get appointed to the board of Ukraine's biggest gas pipeline company, Burisma Holdings, where Hunter was paid \$50,000/month for 75 months, before he apologetically resigned. And why did a Chinese energy consortium offer Hunter Biden \$10 million a year to peddle influence, by helping CECF expand worldwide? All lawbreakers and war criminals need to be held to account...no exceptions.

Lance Jobson



## Habitat for Humanity

You know about Habitat for Humanity, know what we stand for, our involvement in the community but do you know how we began? Or facts about Habitat that have been essential to our history?

The very first Habitat for Humanity meeting took place here in Georgia. The meeting that formed the Habitat for Humanity organization took place in South Georgia in 1976 in a chicken barn on Koinonia Farm. We started with an idea, with limited resources, but with people who had big dreams to make a difference in communities like ours.

Habitat for Humanity is now an internationally known organization that has helped homeowners all around the world. We have had the support from years of past Presidents, including Jimmy Carter who played an extensive role in our success. Carter helped build, and repair over 4,390 different homes spanning across 14 different countries. He worked alongside approximately 104,000 volunteers.

Famous Country music star Garth Brooks and his wife Trisha Yearwood have also donated their time to help build Habitat homes for over a decade. Many more, famous names like, Gerald Ford, Kurt Warner, Rachel McAdams, Vanessa Williams etc.

Habitat has support from all over, known institutions, known names, working side by side communities of people dedicated to making a difference in homeowner lives. For example, since 2007 the Rockefeller Christmas Tree in NYC has been turned into lumber to use and help build a Habitat home for a family. The owner and operator of Rockefeller Center generously donates to Habitat and dedicates her company employees and herself to build alongside volunteers and community members.

Habitat is incredible in the impact it has on creating established homes in multiple communities, but we do so much more than just building habitat homes. Habitat works on disaster relief for natural disasters. We provide shelter and essentials for those in need during crisis. We also advocate for better costs of homes, better regulations, and policies to make homes more affordable.

We are always challenging the status quo and raising the expectations for societal demands when it comes to affordable housing, homeowner rights, and community empowerment. We also challenge ourselves. Never settling, and always improving our work, and our organization. With the right community support, dedicated employees and volunteers the work we can achieve is sky's the limit. For example, Alabama's Shelby County broke the record for the fastest home build. Finishing a Habitat home in 3 hours, 26 minutes, and 34 seconds.

Help us, the Habitat for Humanity of Towns | Union Counties be the best that we can be, through volunteering, donating, sharing and being apart of our events. Together we can challenge to create an affordable, safe, and empowered community.

## Habitat Happenings

Madelyn Bailey



## Towns County Herald

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