

Lowery headlines lecture series at YHC

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helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Along side Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Lowery later founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957. Twenty years later, he became the organization's president and served in that capacity for two decades.

"We're very excited that he was willing to come," President Cox said. "I don't think we're doing our jobs for our students in trying to provide them with the best liberal arts education if we don't expose them to people, to thoughts, to ideas that are different than those that they grew up with."

"We're not out to change their mind, but just to cause them to open their minds and to decide for themselves what kind of people that they're going to be," President Cox said. "We have such a strong emphasis right now on ethics. We want students to come to their own determination of what their ethical views on right and wrong are going to be; what their view on moral integrity will be."

"We will never be in a position at Young Harris College of trying to tell students what to believe, but we want to expose them to all manner of thought and even controversy so they can decide for themselves what they want to believe and how they can be a really good leader of integrity in the years to come," President Cox said.

President Cox said that Lowery definitely fits the mold for the Ragsdale Lecture Series. Lowery is one of 16 Americans who received the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor, from President Obama.

"Wow, he was asked by the President to speak at his inauguration and he was awarded the Medal of Freedom," she said. "Certainly, he

will have a message that will inspire, motivate and I am positive, challenge our students."

Even in retirement, the Rev. Lowery continues to be in demand as a speaker. As President Cox points out, one of Lowery's more recent "speaking engagements" took place in January in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Lowery stood at the podium on the National Mall looking out across more than one million people and delivered the benediction at the inauguration ceremony of our nation's 44th president, Barack Obama.

Lowery's words echoed throughout the land.

"Dear Lord, we thank you for the empowering of thy servant, our 44th president, to inspire our nation to believe that, yes, we can work together to achieve a more perfect union. And while we have sown the seeds of greed — the wind of greed and corruption, and even as we reap the whirlwind of social and economic disruption, we seek forgiveness and we come in a spirit of unity and solidarity to commit our support to our president by our willingness to make sacrifices, to respect your creation, to turn to each other and not on each other."

The Ragsdale Lecture series brings national speakers to Young Harris College to discuss relevant governmental and political issues. The lecture series was endowed in 1983 by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Paris to honor Mrs. Paris' cousin, Warner B. Ragsdale. Ragsdale was a 1917 graduate of Young Harris College who achieved a long and distinguished career in journalism.

"Mr. Ragsdale was raised in the country and went on to become a journalist," Young Harris College President Cathy Cox said. "Mr. Dick Paris tells a story that Mr. Ragsdale

was out plowing a field of cotton with a hoe. When he got to the end of the row, he stuck the hoe handle in the ground and said 'there's got to be an easier way to make a living.'

"That's when he went off to become a journalist and went on to real prominence with U.S. News and World Report, covering international news for decades," she said. "The Paris family wanted to honor his legacy to Young Harris with this lecture series."

Because of Ragsdale's coverage of politics and events that shaped the nation's landscape, the Paris family wanted speakers brought in with political and government connections, President Cox said.

"I think Dr. Lowery certainly fits that bill in every way," she said. "I can assure you that I don't know what he's going to talk about, but it'll be controversial. That's okay. We want our students to be able to hear speakers of all backgrounds that will give them reason for pause to think about things. Think about issues in the world, issues of justice and fairness as they try to decide what they're going to do in their own lives."

After leaving Young Harris College, Ragsdale completed his education at Georgia Institute of Technology. He then began his journalism career serving on the staff of newspapers in Atlanta, Jacksonville, Fla., Hendersonville, N.C., Charlotte, N.C., Birmingham, New Orleans and Louisville. He joined the Associated Press in 1924 and was transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1927. He became Associate Editor and Political Editor for the U.S. News and World Report in 1941, and remained in these roles until his retirement in 1970.

During his career in journalism, Ragsdale covered every national political conven-

tion held by the Republican and Democratic parties from 1928 to 1968. He traveled with Herbert Hoover in his 1928 campaign, with Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, 1940 and 1944, and with Harry Truman in 1948. One of his career highlights was his coverage of the Scopes Evolution Trial in Dayton, Tenn., in 1925.

In 1937, Ragsdale was honored by the National Headliners Club for "best feature story of the year" for his story about Al Capone and the Purple Gang. He served as a part chairman of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Periodic Press Gallery, on which he served from 1949 to 1970. At the time of his death, on Dec. 25, 1986, Ragsdale was engaged in writing "A Century of Presidential Elections, as seen from over the hill and back of the bus."

Ragsdale covered every congressional and presidential campaign from 1941 through his retirement from the journalism world.

A reflection of Ragsdale's writing appears in "Empty Without You, The Intimate Letters of Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickcock."



Dr. Joseph Lowery delivers the Inauguration Day benediction for President Barack Obama during inauguration ceremonies in Washington in January. Photo/Lowery Institute

Angel's Chamber message

We have made a small, but exciting change here at the Chamber. We have re-opened the store in our lobby! We have beautiful ladies and men's polo shirts in a variety of colors and sizes. We also have long sleeve denim shirts as well. All have our signature logo on them. There are also a variety of other small items for sale as well. We hope you can come by and check them out.

Member-to-Member

Our Member-to-Member Discount program is underway. We have already had great response to our call for exclusive member discounts. **Partin Home Inspection, Georgia Mountain Laurel Magazine, The Retreat Day Spa & Gifts and English Country Gardens** have all offered generous discounts to the membership. You can check out the details on our Web site by clicking on the Benefits of Membership page and scrolling down to member discounts.

Don't forget to call, stop by or e-mail us at the Chamber and let us know if you'd like to participate by offering a discount or if you'd like to get your member card.

Thank you!

We would like to extend a special thank you to **Mike & Sally Clark with English Country Gardens**. They have generously donated a variety of their locally grown beautiful

fall mums for us to enjoy here at the Chamber Visitor's Center. They also are offering a 20 percent discount for Chamber members as well. Thank you, for your generosity and support!

English Country Gardens, 973 Village Road, in Hiawassee. Call (706) 896.8947 or visit the Web at www.englishcountrygardensusa.com

CHAMBER WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBERS

ADDRIANNA'S WINE COTTAGE, 1604 Hwy 17, Young Harris—Stop in for a great selection of wines, cheeses, chocolate, coffee, etc. We can make your Gift Baskets special! Call (706) 896-9238.

CHINA GRILL, 217 S. Main St, Hiawassee—Authentic Chinese Food prepared fresh and healthy. Eat in or take out. Catering is available, call (706) 896-8088.

HIWASSEE INN, 193 E. Main St., Hiawassee—Under new Management, Family friendly motel with clean accommodations. A great place for those extra out of town guests. Call (706) 896-4121.

SHONEY'S OF HIWASSEE, 625 Hwy 76, Hiawassee—Under new management, newly renovated and ready to serve you. Family friendly dining with one of the best views in Hiawassee. Call (706) 896-3200.

WEST PRINTING, 259 Cleveland Street, Blairsville—Full line commercial printer, color brochures, business cards, wedding invitations, etc. Call (706) 745-6343.

DCL PLUMBING & TRUCKING, 648 Matheson Cove Road, Hayesville—Licensed and insured in North Carolina and Georgia, commercial and residential plumbing and trucking. Call (706) 781-7839.

Angel Long is the president of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce.

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce and the Towns County Tourism Association is dedicated to providing information that is both informative and up-to-date to our visitors, potential and current Chamber members, and individuals who are interested in moving to the Hiawassee and Young Harris Georgia area.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please feel free to contact the Chamber at (706) 896-4966 or (800) 984-1543.

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce is located at 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris, GA. Our phone number is (706) 896-4966. Visit us on the Web at www.mountaintopga.com for more insight about what's happening in Hiawassee, Young Harris and Towns County.

North Georgia Patriots march in DC

More than 300 people from the North Georgia/Carolina Patriots group marched in Washington on Sept. 12. The crowd was massive they filled the Capitol lawn, all of the streets leading up to the Capitol and all of the side streets.

More than 1 million people went to Washington to make their voices heard. As they walked down Pennsylvania Avenue shoulder to shoulder they chanted, 'CAN YOU HEAR US NOW! CAN YOU SEE US NOW!'

They are concerned about the introduction of re-

cent health care and cap and trade legislative bills. The economic condition of America is also a major concern.

Many from the group visited U.S. Senators Chambliss and Isakson's offices to address these concerns and to deliver thousands of signatures against the healthcare and the cap and trade bills. Petitions to support fair tax were also delivered.

The group was given a tour of the U.S. Capitol building prior to visiting the Senators. Three students, 17-year-old Jeff Stewart, of Towns

County High School, 9-year-old McKayla Partlow of Rabun County, and 11-year-old Sarah Gilley traveled with the group of Patriots.

The nonpartisan group is planning to attend the next rally in Washington to be held on tax day April 15th.

The next meeting for the Patriots is Sept. 22, at 6:00 in the Towns County High School Auditorium. A canned food drive for the local food pantry will be held as well that night.

For further information call Ms. Davis at (706) 896-9021.



North Georgia Patriots Delivering Petitions to Senator Johnny Isakson's office. Front row, McKayla Partlow, Kay Powell, and Nighta Davis. Second row, Brenda Maddox, Naomi Starcher, Charlotte Ledford, Chris Swet and Jack Rawdin. Third row, Linda Foster, Suzanne Hollenback, Teresa Tatum, Warren Tatum.

TCHS Class of '69 reunites



Towns County High School Class of 1969 reunited Saturday at Mary Ann's Restaurant in Young Harris. Twenty-five members of the class gathered, including the Herald's Lowell Nicholson. The group wishes to thank Mary Ann's for allowing the gathering. Photo/Bonnie Dyer



Towns County Chamber of Commerce President Angel Long on the back deck at the Chamber's headquarters off Jack Dayton Circle in Young Harris. Photo/Lowell Nicholson