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member that selfless dedication at a site that was rededicated in 1997 in the memories of those locals who served, fought and or died in the field of battle.

This day also was special because of a new artillery addition at Towns County Veterans Park.

A M115, 8-inch, 203MM artillery weapon comes from St. Louis, MO, on loan from the U.S. Army and is stationed in perpetuity at Towns County's Veterans Park near the county schools.

"It's here as long as we keep it clean and take good care of it," VFW Commander Chris Swett said.

Commander Swett said that the Howitzer served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The most recent service by artillery piece was in Croatia, as part of the NATO alliance trying to bring stability to that region of the world.

"We're tracking the service record of this weapon and hope to have that completed within the next couple of months," he said.

Swett had high praise for Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, who helped make it possible to locate the Howitzer at Veterans Park.

Veterans Park is lo-

cated on land once used as a retention pond when the current Towns County Schools were under construction. Once the schools were completed, Kendall and members of the schools' student council decided the best use for the land was a place to commemorate the sacrifices paid by locals during the various wars and conflicts that called them to military service.

When word came recently that Towns County could acquire the historic Howitzer, arrangements had to be made with the local Board of Education to lease the land to the county because it's illegal to possess a weapon on school property.

Commissioner Kendall and Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens worked with the school board to arrange an annual \$1 lease of the property to the county, thus clearing the way to place the Howitzer in Veterans Park.

Commissioner Kendall spoke to the crowd. He remembers the *11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month when the War to end all Wars* came to a grinding halt.

The commissioner has relatives recognized at the

Park, relatives who lost their lives in defense of this great nation.

He spoke to a crowd that included veterans of all branches of the United States Military. He gazed into the crowd that included veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

He spoke of a time when the oceans and sands of Europe and the Pacific once ran red with the blood of native sons. He told the crowd that those in attendance were gathered at the Park on Thursday to remember "the blood, sweat and the tears of those locals who fought and kept us free."

Afterward, veterans, or their family members lay wreaths in honor of the branches of U.S. Military Service.

A moment of silence followed out of respect for those who didn't make it home.

The Towns County High School band concluded the day with a medley of military songs celebrating the U.S. Army, U.S. Marines, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard.

With each tune, the veterans of those respective services stood at attention and saluted the memories of their brethren who served with them, side-by-side in defense of their country.

Loretta Lynn...continued from page 1A

Lynn in the critically acclaimed *Coal Miner's Daughter* in 1980. The movie was based on Loretta Lynn's autobiography entitled *Coal Miner's Daughter*.

Her baby sister, Crystal Gayle, also born in Butcher Holler, Kentucky, played The Hall in Hiawasse on Oct. 9 dur-

ing the Fall Festival.

"What can I say, we're excited and in awe of the fact that Loretta Lynn is coming to Hiawassee," Thomason said. "She's a legend, I mean, she is Country Music royalty and it is an honor to have her here at Anderson Music Hall."

Loretta Lynn, whose

most endearing songs include *You Ain't Woman Enough (To Take My Man)* and *Don't Come Home A'Drinkin' (With Lovin' On Your Mind)* are part of the deep roots of Country Music's past, still performs in limited engagements to stay in touch with her legendary fan base.

Republicans to celebrate superb 2010

2010 was a great year if you are a Republican. In Towns County, the successes of the year will be celebrated at the regular monthly meeting of the Party on Monday, November 22.

A good year in political circles is usually equated with success at the ballot box. However, to the Towns County Republican Party, success is measured by much more.

Towns County Republicans have determined that they will become proactive in the life of the community. Not only do they promote conservative values and support candidates for local and state offices, they also seek ways in which they can respond to the needs of the county and its people.

Thus, they are the creators and sponsors of the Youth Leadership Development Scholarship, a public speaking contest awarding college scholarships to the best speakers in the county. Members of the party can also be found at the Food Pantry, packing and distributing food. Or maintaining and beautifying the entrance signs to the county.

Financial support has also been given to the Sheriff's Department, Food Pantry, youth girls fast pitch softball team and FFA state public speaking champion Jeannie Bradley.

Speaking at the meeting will be Republican officeholders Sheriff Bill Clinton, Judge David Rogers and Clerk of Court Cecil Dye. Each will outline their success for 2010 and enumerate their goals for 2011.

Towns County Republican Party meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month at Daniel's Steak House in Hiawasse. Republican meetings are open to everyone, of any political persuasion. Although the meetings officially begin at 6 PM sharp, many arrive early to enjoy an evening meal with their friends.

Yes, it has been a superb year. Come and help Republicans celebrate on Monday, November 22 at Daniel's Steakhouse. TNov17.G25H