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in the Clinton Administration.

Through the years, Shirley and Zell raised two boys, and once owned a newspaper, the Towns County Herald.

Shirley also had a banking career, beginning with the Bank of Hiawassee, a career that continued in Atlanta and lasted the length of Zell's political career, up until he became Gov. Zell Miller in 1991.

As Georgia's First Lady, Shirley championed a cause that paid huge dividends for Georgia families for years to come – Adult Literacy, and helping Georgians earn their GEDs.

On Thursday, Aug. 17, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Old Unicoi Chapter, honored Shirley Miller for her statewide work in adult literacy, and for her on-going support of her husband and former Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and U.S. Senator Zell Miller.

The event also paid tribute to the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter that was celebrated by more than 70 people in the Historic Union County Courthouse Courtroom with the introduction of members and guests including family of charter members who organized the Chapter in 1997.

Shirley Miller, along with Ethelene Dyer Jones, were presented Women in History



Evelyn Lamar pinning the "Women in American History" medal onto Miller on Thursday, Aug. 17. Photo/Shawn Jar-rard

honors by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The ceremony took place in the Historic Union County Courthouse.

Afterward, a celebration of the two, and the 20th anniversary of the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter, occurred in the Historic Courthouse with light refreshments.

Evelyn Lamar of Blairsville presented the award to Shirley Miller, which included a NSDAR Certificate and medal.

"It's a great honor, especially when it's home folks," Shirley said. "That makes it extremely special – for folks here in the community to be conscious of the literacy program and to be conscious of what's going on right now as adult literacy is concerned

here in our area.

"They're turning out the GEDs, which is what needs to happen," said Shirley Miller, a native of Rail Cove, North Carolina, near Andrews.

Her time spent as Georgia's First Lady was enjoyed mostly because of her accomplishments with the adult literacy programs.

"I'm also very, very proud of the HOPE Scholarship and the Pre-K program," she added. "I think we're just beginning to see the fruits of the Pre-K program in full bloom."

While Zell was governor, he focused on making education a priority. Shirley said his making education a priority is beginning to blossom in Georgia.

"I think there are a lot

of good things happening in education," she said. "And, of course, for us personally, the fact that Zell's chief of staff, Steve Wrigley, is chancellor of the University System of Georgia, and doing what we consider a bang-up job, that's a source of pride."

Wrigley spent five years as chief of staff for then Gov. Zell Miller.

Shirley also is extremely proud that the Olympics

happened on Zell's watch as governor.

"I'm proud that the Olympics happened on our watch and that they went as well as they did, despite what happened (Eric Rudolph bombing)," she said. "I'm proud that Georgia looked like it did during the Olympics."

Both she and Zell are longtime Atlanta Braves fans. Most recently, the two Young Harris College alumni rejoiced

in watching the head-to-head matchup of Atlanta right fielder Nick Markakis and Colorado Rockies' center fielder Charlie Blackmon.

Both Markakis and Blackmon are YHC alumni from the college's baseball program.

"It's real special that two Young Harris College ballplayers are playing against each other in the Major Leagues," Shirley said.

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beginning to the school year. It's been very smooth and both the students and the teachers seem excited to get the ball rolling.

"I'm so proud of the hard work of the middle school teachers and everything that they've done to make sure our students are learning what they need to be learning."

Principal Chastain explained the outline of the RESA results, explaining that the state has developed four achievement levels to describe student mastery and command of knowledge and skills.

The four achievement levels are Level 1: beginning learner, Level 2: developing learner, Level 3: proficient learner and Level 4: distinguished learner.

While reporting the middle school's Pioneer RESA results, Chastain informed the board that sixth-grade English/language arts was first in the district for Levels 3 and 4, and in eighth-grade English/language arts in Levels 3 and above.

Meanwhile, seventh-grade English/language arts placed fifth in the district in Levels 3 and above.

"I'm very proud of our teachers and our students for having eight scores that were number one in Pioneer RESA out of 16," said Principal Chastain. "We've had very



Towns County Board of Education Members Stan Chastain and Laura Banister. Photo/Lily Avery

good scores this year and I appreciate all that these people do for our students and for our school."

TCHS Principal Dr. Hobbs also shared the high school's RESA assessments, however, she first boasted of the first week of school and how well it went.

"Our enrollment is right at 238," said Dr. Hobbs. "We've had a great beginning to the school year. I think it's been a very, very smooth start to the school year. This has probably been the smoothest year that I've had."

During the RESA Data presentation, Dr. Hobbs reported that the high school is second in district in ninth-grade literature for Level 3 and above and was fifth in district for Coordinate Algebra for Level 3 and above.

For 11th grade American Literature, the high school scored third in the district for Level 3 and above. In Biology, the high school was fourth in the district for Level 3 and above and scored first in the district in Geometry for Level 3 and above.

In Physical Science, the high school scored second in the district for Level 3 and above. And in U.S. History,

the school scored fourth in the district for Level 3 and above.

The only TCHS score to finish below the state average was Economics, where the high school scored 11th in the district for Level 3 and above.

"I'm very proud of the work that our teachers and students are doing at the high school," said Dr. Hobbs. "They continue to work hard and make progress. I'm very proud."

Towns County School Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong congratulated both of the principals for their continued growth and achievement, encouraging them to keep striving for excellence and improvement in the coming school year.

"The middle school and high school did extremely well," said Dr. Berrong. "I commend the principals for making the decisions that had to be made after last year's test scores and continuing to move forward."

"There are still some changes to be made but we'll do that and see how things turn out at the end of the year. Things are looking really good as far as academic achievement in our schools.

"I appreciate the principals for that."