

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Did You Remember?

September 15, 2017 is another of those National POW/MIA Recognition Days in the United States. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is annually observed in the United States on the third Friday of September. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is not a federal public holiday in the United States but it is a national observance. The United States Congress passed a resolution authorizing National POW/MIA Recognition Day to be observed on July 18, 1979. It was observed on the same date in 1980 and was held on July 17 in 1981 and 1982. It was then observed on April 9 in 1983 and July 20 in 1984. The event was observed on July 19 in 1985, and then from 1986 onwards the date moved to the third Friday of September. The United States president each year proclaims National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Many states in the USA also proclaim POW/MIA Recognition Day together with the national effort. If you have a loved one who is a POW/MIA then this would be an everyday event and a reminder of a broken heart for you. Think for a moment of the haunting feeling of not knowing where your brother, father, uncle, cousin or other loved one may lie; or may not be and in some limited cases may still even be alive.

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



Our unaccounted for from past military actions: North America/ WW II/1,701; Europe/Cold War/15; Europe/WW II/20,972; Mideast/Gulf Wars/5; Mideast/WW II/19; Africa/ WW II / 971 and El Dorado Canyon/1; Southeast Asia and Pacific/ Cold War/111; Korean War/ 7,807; WW II/ 48,098; Vietnam War 1,618; South America/WW II/ 1,025. These numbers are astounding plus thinking of those many families, not knowing, multiplies these numbers exponentially to incredible unobtainable numbers. Those are our fellow citizens, like Zedie Cunningham McCall who has been doggedly researching, praying and trying to get her brother Grover Cunningham's remains returned home for most of her life. Grover was with the First Marines, when he was killed at Tarawa. My meager math skills determines the total is 82,694 but simply because research on issues such as this is subject to human error, confusion, chaos and in the end bureaucratic red tape, these numbers are probably higher. At any rate, one POW/MIA is one too many for our USA, our men, women and families who have served us well, in wartime and peace.

Our Veterans and family of Towns County at the suggestion of Bill McClain at Brasstown Manor will be pursuing the setting of empty, but set, "White Table" events at many locations forthwith. Katy Harkins, Ash Todd, Charley Andrews and a host of others from our umbrella VFW post 7807 will be spearheading, organizing and purchasing tables, white linens, candle holders and other memorabilia for these year round honorable shrines. These White Tables will be located as shrines of honor to remind us of those who gave their all for you and me, and yet we know not where they rest.

*Semper Paratus*

## Letters to The Editor

### To the Editor:

I would like to say "Thank You" to the following businessmen and men for helping locate the grave and placing the military veteran plaque on the grave of John A. Berrong WW I veteran. He passed over 30 years ago.

Thank you to Banister Funeral Home and Cochran Funeral Home and a special thank you to Earnest Coblet, Billy Nicholson and Walter Berg for locating and placing the veteran's plaque.

*Junior Berrong*

### Dear Editor:

How generous of Mr. Palmich (TCH Letters, 09-13-17) to recognize that other races besides Afro-American slave labor, "went into the building of this country and its wealth." His is the very racism that denies blacks their due. By Mr. Palmich comparing white immigrants brought to this country in freedom to work for real wages and to compare that with blacks brought here as slaves in chains and neck irons and forced to work for no pay under the threat of the whip and the hangman's noose---this comparison is the epitome of white racism.

It is the slave system that allowed whites to accumulate super-wealth, by capital formation that allowed industrialization and the discovery of new and more advanced development. This 400-year legacy of racist slave system came after the Atlantic passage where the death toll of blacks from inhumane conditions on slave ships was as high as 40%. For Mr. Palmich to blame racism on blacks by accusing the victims for single-parent households and dysfunctional families is to ignore the historical roots of black treatment from slavery, the Jim Crow era and today's Black Lives Matter resistance, while the grinding poverty continues the super-oppression of another generation of blacks denied the wealth they helped create.

*Lance G. Jobson*

### Dear Editor:

I am responding to John DiChiara's letter. Mr. DiChiara boldly asserts that "it is the ultimate hubris to believe man [sic] has anything to do with" climate change.

I have taken online courses through the University of Melbourne, Australia and Yale University on this topic. I agree that what is happening is part of a natural cycle in nature. We are in the period of the sixth extinction. I also agree that some alarmists are overstating the impact of climate change in weather patterns. The jury is still out but most scientists think that the evidence is mounting. If we extract and burn all the fossil fuel that remains, we will implode the earth in short order. There is concrete scientific evidence that the increased induction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is exacerbating the extinction and speeding up the natural cycle.

Finally, I also believe that we have a moral responsibility to God's creation, ourselves and future generations to do whatever we can to lessen our human footprint. We have the technology to do this. We just need to do it.

*Joseph Mahon*

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## Well Played

I once had a boss who was wise, and I sought his counsel on how to deal with an employee who was the antithesis of wise. "Don," he said, "Over the years I've learned that most people don't wake up in the morning intending to do ill."

That stuck with me, and it has been very helpful in learning to better accommodate the broad range of human behavior. Sometimes I forget this wisdom, especially when human behavior seems to indicate a clear intent to do wrong, as in the choice by some people to steal from Hurricane victims.

For the most part what we've seen during our recent back-to-back natural disasters is people choosing to set aside ego, mistrust, prejudice, or some combination of the many things we invent to separate ourselves from each other.

I think the kernel of truth in the wisdom shared by my former boss is also at the core of the selfless behavior we have seen from here to Texas and beyond to the forgotten fires raging out west, where over a million acres have burned while the networks gave us minute by minute coverage of the hurricanes. That truth is mindfulness.

Mindfulness brings us into the current moment, where the past does not haunt nor the future frighten. It reminds us of the bond we share with all of humanity, the legacy of a single small planet circling the outer fringe of one galaxy among countless others suspended in space. Isn't it remarkable that the shape of a galaxy and the shape of a hurricane is so similar?

There, just for a moment we were in the present, all of us sharing a ride on our lifeboat charting an unknown course through the cosmos. We just experienced mindfulness, a state of being foreign to someone setting a fire or looting, or engaged in numerous other behaviors we find reprehensible. The attention of such people is subsumed by ego, self importance. To a lesser degree, so is the attention of the person who cuts us off in traffic or indulges in some other rude behavior. When we are also self-important, we are offended. When we are mindful, we consider that the person tailgating or cutting us off may be rushing to check on an elderly parent who has been without power for two days.

There are those who say that our recent series of disasters is God's judgment on a nation gone astray. I disagree. Was it also God's judgment that no major hurricane touched our shores for nine years? Or that over 1200 people died from flooding in Bangladesh during the same week that Harvey flooded the Texas coast?

Human history in its entirety is delineated by one disaster after another, but there is not enough paper in the world to print the history of the day to day moments of peaceful existence and ordinary struggles. Our attention has, once again, been artificially stimulated by the sellers of advertising, or have we forgotten Y2K and the end of the world in 2012 already?

If a series of storms is not God's judgment, it certainly is an opportunity. We have an opportunity to practice mindfulness, to see beyond our own reflection in the mirror and to reflect on the human condition.

And that's exactly what we are seeing. Neighbor helping neighbor, public servants, linemen, law enforcement, firefighters, EMT's and National Guard, all working above and beyond the call of duty. Donations pouring in and volunteers traveling across country at their own expense to help strangers.

So if God is the one sending these disasters, perhaps it's not for punishment, but for education. Well played, God.

## From the Desk of:



**Sheriff Clinton of Towns County**

September 11, 2001 is a day I will never forget. I had spent the night before on a 12-hour shift as a patrol deputy.

My wife woke me up to tell me about the first plane. As we watched in horror, we saw the first footage of flight 175 striking the south tower. I remember feeling like I had to do something.

I did what a lot of other law enforcement officers did - I put on my gear and went back to work, without sleeping, in case I was needed.

All of us knew that we were facing something we had never dealt with in the past. A lot changed that day.

We must always remember those who lost their lives and keep their families in prayer. American children are growing up without their mom or dad. Families have lost loved ones. We as Americans must always remember them and honor that memory.

On September 11, 2012, Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty all lost their lives in an attack in Benghazi, Libya.

September 11 is also a day that Towns County Deputy James Taylor lost his life in the line of duty in 1981. Twenty years before the Twin Towers, a Towns County family suffered the loss of a father, husband, brother, and the whole community felt the loss of a local hero. I cannot help but to think of the Taylor family each year on this day.

Deputy Taylor gave the ultimate sacrifice protecting and serving the people of this great county and we should remember his family in our prayers.

The families of those who serve are affected much harder than the majority of people ever realize. We should all remember to keep these families in our prayers and especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This weekend I attended and had the privilege of speaking to a group of riders at their annual 9-11 memorial ride. My friend, Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, a local ophthalmologist, a Cherokee County, NC commissioner, radio personality (Dr. Dan's Freedom Forum), public speaker, and all around patriot made a statement that I believe to be profound. He reminded us of the importance of remembering the sacrifices of those who gave all. He said, "A man does not die until he is forgotten." Let us never forget.

## The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

## Storm Damage to Trees

Hurricane Irma may have been downgraded to Tropical Storm status by the time she reached us, but that didn't stop her from causing significant damage in North Georgia counties. While we had significantly less structural damage than southern counties, I have still seen many cases of tree loss or other horticultural property damage.

If you have a large tree that has been uprooted by wind, it will need to be removed immediately. There are many services that can assist with chopping up a downed tree or chipping it. Though it may break your heart to see that prize oak fall in a windstorm, chopping it up to make firewood or chipping it to make mulch for your gardens are great ways to make the best out of a bad situation. Just remember to never transport your firewood. If a tree falls, that could mean that it was weakened by pests or diseases, and transporting your firewood across state lines can introduce invasive pests into unaffected areas.

If a smaller tree has been uprooted, there is a good chance it can be saved. Replant any exposed roots as soon as possible to reduce the risk of drying out. It may be necessary to stake the tree for support. It will take a few months to assess the extent of the root damage, and you should expect to see some branches die. Pay special attention to these trees in case of other windstorms or periods of drought. Make sure they are protected from extreme conditions for the next year or two.

To reduce wind damage to trees, add support to their trunks. You can do this by staking them and "guying" or tying them to stakes in the ground. However, never leave stakes and guys in place for more than a year. This could damage the trunk and cause growth abnormalities. It is recommended to remove stakes and guy wires by mid-spring on fall planted trees, and within 8 weeks if the tree is planted in spring or summer. Never over-fertilize with nitrogen because this can cause the tree to produce more leaves than the root system can support. A large canopy provides more wind resistance, and if the roots are not strong enough, this can be disastrous. Avoid overwatering because soil that is consistently too wet will cause the roots to be loose in the ground. Overwatering can also stress trees, making them weaker overall. Only water trees when they are first planted and when there has not been adequate rainfall.

Always survey your property after severe storms and assess any important trees and plants for injuries. Many tree and shrub branches will break and cause cracks leading down to the trunk. These cracks and openings can be susceptible to disease infection, especially fruit trees. Clean up any jagged branches during your winter pruning by cutting the remaining wood off at the collar (swollen area where the branch attaches to the trunk). In spring, begin applying fungicides to make sure spores and bacteria do not have the opportunity to infect these wounds.

For more information, please contact your extension office.

Union and Towns County Extension will be holding a Pesticide Safety Course on Wednesday, October 11th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Union County Extension Office. Private applicators will receive 2 credit hours, and commercial applicators will receive 4 credits in any one category. There will be a \$40 registration fee to cover costs of speakers. Please RSVP to the Union County Extension Office by 5 p.m. Monday, October 9th to secure your spot.



## Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Wednesday	
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Friday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Third Monday of each month:	
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
	Third Tuesday of each month:	
YH Plan Comm.	YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
	Third Saturday of each month:	
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
	Fourth Monday of each month:	
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
	Fourth Thursday of each month:	
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
	Last Thursday of each month:	
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

## Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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