

# Retired U.S. Army Maj. Leon Davenport will be missed



Leon and Barbara Davenport share the major's Quilt of Valor, which he received in March of 2014.

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Most people only know Leon Davenport as the retired administrator of Union General Hospital.

Davenport, 90, who died last Thursday, was the most decorated war veteran in Union County history. He also is the namesake of the Veterans Building off Georgia Highway 515 in Blairsville.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Jan. 9, at Blairsville First Baptist Church, with Dr. Fred Lodge officiating. Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and family friend John Gambino also spoke at the service.

Davenport will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Cochran Funeral Home and Crematory of Blairsville.

Retired U.S. Army Maj. Leon Davenport, a Union County native, is one of the most decorated veterans in U.S. Military history, and without a doubt, the most decorated soldier in Union County history.

Davenport began his military career as a U.S. Army private in 1944 and rose through the ranks to major, receiving a battlefield commission in Korea in 1953.

During his 22-year military career, Davenport served 131 months overseas, being stationed in the Philippine Islands (1945), Japan (1945-1950), Korea (1950-1951 and 1952-1953), Germany (1962-1965) and Vietnam (1968-1969).

He was a member of the famed 24th Infantry Division, the first American unit to see action during the Korean Conflict.

During the course of his military career, Davenport was awarded three Silver Stars, one Bronze Star with V for Valor, one Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, a Purple Heart, an Air Medal with Nine Oak Leaf clusters, an Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, an American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army

as a Deacon, later as Deacon Emeritus, for many years.

Upon his retirement from military service in August 1972, Maj. Davenport assumed the position of Administrator of Union General Hospital in Blairsville.

"Mr. D.," as he is still affectionately known by current and former hospital/nursing home staff, remained as administrator of the facility until his retirement in 1993. Davenport always gave credit for the growth and success of the facilities to members of the hospital authority, medical staff and employees.

Davenport has been a faithful member of many civic and patriotic organizations, such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Purple Heart Association, the 3rd Infantry Division Association, the 24th Infantry Division Association, the 1st Cavalry Association, the 14th Armored Cavalry Association and the Retired Officer's Association.

He was also a member of Allegheny Lodge No. 114 F & AM, and an active member of the Shriner's organization while stationed in Kentucky.

Surviving him is his wife of 63 years, Barbara; daughter and son-in-law, Cayce and David Friedly; and son and daughter-in-law, Douglas



These seven flagpoles were installed and dedicated at the Maj. Leon Davenport Veterans Center in July 2016. Following Davenport's death last Thursday, the flags were lowered to half-staff.

and Delila Davenport, all of Blairsville.

Also surviving are nieces Sydney C. Vandiver, Laurie C. Shelnut, Beth T. Wright, and Barbara C. Twiggs; nephew Matthew Chambers and great-nephew Carter Wright.

Other survivors include: cousins Charles Jenkins, Marilyn J. Thomasson, Kenneth Jenkins, and Patricia J. Chambers, and longtime family friend and caretaker Martha Deavers.

Preceding Maj. Davenport in death were his sister

and brother, Vivian Davenport Chambers and Douglas Denmon Davenport, and cousins Ella J. Battle and Ed Jenkins.

The following gentlemen served as pallbearers: Billy Decker, Roy Hamby, Jimmy Hooper, Wesley Hopgood, Hoyt Raper, James Kirk Smith and Terry Wright.

Requested to serve as honorary pallbearers were: the "Jesse" Sunday School Class of Blairsville First Baptist Church, Rev. Bethel Buch-

anan, Bobby Ellis, Joe Gray, Charles Jenkins, Carlton Colwell, Zell Miller, Bud Akins, Kenneth Jenkins, Billy Johnson, D.L. Martin, James Postell, and members of all local veterans associations.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested memorial contributions be made to Blairsville First Baptist Church, Union General Hospital Auxiliary or Union County Nursing Home Activities Department.



Barbara and Leon Davenport with close family friend and fellow veteran Roy Hamby during the November 11, 2015, Veterans Day Ceremony at the First United Methodist Church.



Blairsville's own U.S. Army Maj. (Ret.) Leon Davenport passed away on Thursday, Jan. 5. Here is Davenport in April of 2013, with wife Barbara and daughter Cayce, during the ceremony in which the Veterans Building became his namesake.

## Health board meets new District 2 director



Steve Holmes and the rest of the Towns County Board of Health met new District 2 Public Health Director Dr. Pamela Logan in a called meeting last week. Dr. Logan recently took over as District 2 director from Dr. David Westfall.

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS — The Towns County Board of Health held a called meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5, in the 911 Conference Room to discuss upcoming accounting and employee matters with new District 2 Public Health Director Dr. Pamela Logan.

A primary point of discussion during the meeting was the proposition of mov-

ing the business of accounting from the local office to the district level.

As of right now, of the 13 counties in the district, Towns County is only one of two doing all in-house accounting, something Logan advises against due to the hours it takes away from personnel productivity in the office.

During FY 2016, the allocation for accounting

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