

Peters...from Page 1A



Skip Peters was a highly decorated soldier who served his country – and his community – with honor and integrity.
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

within the community and made friends everywhere he went.

“Skip and I ended up having fellowship together and looking into the word of God and talking about our concerns and our hearts,” veteran and evangelist Jim McKeral said in the Saturday service.

Continued McKeral, “He shared his heart with me in a way that he would have never done if there would have been one other person in that room. As he began to share his heart, we talked about different things in the military, his career, the things he had done and his service to the country.

“But the most impressive thing to me was his love for (his wife) Georgia and his family, how he loved his country and loved serving in the Army.”

During the celebration services, Peters’ friends and family stood to talk about memories of and lessons

imparted by Peters, each mentioning his devotion to God and unabashed love of Jesus.

“The most powerful thing that my dad left me with was that I was going to see him again,” said Michael Peters, one of Skip and Georgia’s four kids. “My dad loved God so very much, especially in the last days that he had on this Earth.

“It was very important to him that he taught all four of his children how we could see him and be with him again forever.”

Peters is survived by his wife Georgia of 47 years, three sons and a daughter, 11 grandchildren, a stepbrother, and countless friends, many of whom are fellow veterans.

“The past eight days have been a roller coaster, and I’m sure you can imagine that,” Georgia said. “Wednesday was really hard for me, and I sobbed over my smoothie and bagel because it was my first time

having a smoothie and bagel without Skip being there.

“I had to make some phone calls that were really hard, and I felt discouraged and overwhelmed, and fear was starting to creep in. I was struggling with the battle. I was finishing Skip’s obituary, and I didn’t even want to do that. I just wanted him to come home and things to be normal.”

Added Peters, “God tells us that a day with him is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. There’s no time in eternity like we know it. These past eight days have been long, but for Skip, there are no eight days and no more days.

“To him, our arrival will seem like just a moment; he’s not up there waiting for us to come. While we wait, and those of us who remain, I will continue to say to Skip, (as) I would say to him every day on my way home from work, ‘I will be there shortly.’”

Women of Union, Towns and Rabun Counties Rally for Trump at the Hats Off For Trump Luncheon on Thursday



Participants at the Hats Off for Trump event with the Trump Bus

As the clouds lifted on Thursday morning, Republican women from Union, Towns and Rabun counties gathered at the Union County Community Center to raise their Hats to President Trump. Over 80 women came to decorate hats and visit with Georgia’s Republican National Committee-woman Ginger Howard as she shared her experiences representing Georgia on the Republican National Committee.

“It was the first time I’ve seen so many women in spring colors in February,” said Lexi Adkins of Suches, in charge of the decorations. The primary color decorating the Center was pink – all shades of pinks. Flowers, buttons, banners and bows were available to decorate hats. Many attendees came with hats already decorated. Awards went to the Best Overall, a celebratory red straw hat decorated by Mary Daigle of Woodstock, GA; Most Creative, a bridal veil uniquely decorated by Connie Holcombe of Rabun County, and of course the GRITS hat was awarded to Dolly Garner of Union County for the hat that could only have been decorated by and in the style of a Girl Raised In The South!

Dena Gooch, Chair of Union County Republican Party and emcee, commented, “This was an idea that came to me over a year ago, a way to get women to work together in support of what this administration has done for the American people.” Betsy Young, Chair of Towns County Republican Party, and Kimberly Gurtler, 1st Vice Chair of Rabun County Republican Party, co-chaired the event with Gooch. “We had



Georgia National Committeewoman Ginger Howard with GRITS Winner Dolly Garner having their picture taken with President Trump

a tremendous outpouring of support from our three counties and we thank everyone for their support”, added Young. “And while Rabun attendees had to cross the mountain to attend, they did so with great enthusiasm”, commented Gurtler.

“These North Georgia Women know how to do things right! Hats off for Trump Luncheon was a huge success!” said Committeewoman Ginger Howard. Serving as Republican National Committeewoman, Howard has been elected by her peers in the Southern Region of the RNC to serve on the Site Selection Committee, and she serves on the Standing Committee on Rules. In addition, she was appointed by Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel to serve on the Committee on Arrangements

for the 2020 Convention. Howard also serves on the Faith Advisory Board. Most recently, Howard was appointed to serve on the Women for Trump National Advisory Board in July of 2019. “Ginger Howard is a very busy woman and it was special to have her as our Keynote speaker”, commented Gooch. “And it was great to see the Trump Bus come to Blairsville.”

This is an exciting year for politics. There are many lessons for each of us as we watch our democratic process at work. Watch for these and other upcoming educational events: April 25 - Meeks Park Candidate Forum (Union County); April 25 - Hiwassee Candidate Forum (Towns County).

Submitted by Linda Hill, UCGOP Secretary

Lions Club...from Page 1A

dinner at Daniel’s Steakhouse in Hiawassee.

As dinner was served, club members and guests shared stories and memories with one another, making sure to work their way over to a table housing the club’s original charter certificate, signed Feb. 27, 1940, and scrapbooks with pictures from the ‘80s and ‘90s.

Welcoming dignitaries and other guests that evening was Club President Jeff Myers.

“The Lions are, as you know, a diverse group of people active in the community,” Myers said. “We bonded together in the belief that we can make a difference in helping our neighbors see and hear clearly.”

In supporting the community through volunteerism and fundraising for eyeglasses and more, Lions Club members “not only help those in need, but they have the opportunity to develop personal friendships, as we have here, and gain valuable leadership skills,” Myers said.

When the Towns County Lions first chartered in 1940, the club started with 19 members, Myers said.

Local 4-H’ers provided the club’s first meal at the time in the hallway of the Towns County High School, and the club’s first project was to purchase Blue Willow dishes for the home economics room there, Myers said.

In the early 1950s, members began to discuss the need for economic growth in the North Georgia Mountains, so, to promote this area, Myers said the club decided on a mountain heritage theme to showcase the region to the outside world.

At one time, the club had 132 members, and though the club enjoys an active membership of just 68 Lions volunteers today, it’s still one of the largest charters in the district.

The Lions Club has repeatedly backed up its motto of “We Serve” by keeping its mission going through the dedication of past presidents, officers and general memberships, Myers said.

Following his opening remarks, Myers welcomed four of the club’s longest-serving volunteers – Clay Dotson, Jack Anderson, Grover Garrett and



Lions Club President Jeff Myers opened the club’s 80th birthday festivities with a bit of history during dinner at Daniel’s Steakhouse last week.
Photo by Chad Stack

Dr. Lanier Nicholson, all life members – to talk about some of the history and what brought them to the Lions Club.

Dr. Nicholson, who became a member in 1960, discussed the start of the national Lions Club in October of 1917 and how it began during a convention in Chicago.

“They wanted us to promote good citizenship, have an active interest in the civic, social and moral structure of the community, to encourage good friendship, good fellowship, provide a forum for discussion, and pledge a public interest to

the community,” Nicholson said.

Nicholson’s father was one of the founders of the Towns County Lions Club, and Nicholson said seeing his father as a Lions Club member was what sparked his interest in becoming one, too.

Several other Lions also offered remarks during the 80th anniversary dinner. Following all comments, members gathered for pictures before saying their goodbyes until the club’s next meeting.