

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Another Special Angel

"Another Special Angel Called Home" - No, we can't know them all, however we can love, honor and respect that

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



which our Greatest Generation accomplished for each and every one of us. In my "upper middle age", I can attest to the fact that just about every single WWII Veteran I ever knew was a hero and a Blessing for me to know. None of us would be here today if it was not for all of those folks of that generation and the sacrifices, hard work, blood sweat, tears and the Supreme Sacrifices they made for something far greater than self! I cannot say for certain, but most folks who read our paper didn't know Bradford Freedom. So here's only a few words about this wonderful man.

Last Remaining WWII 'Band of Brothers' Member Bradford Freeman Dies at 97 According to the funeral home, Freeman is survived by his sister and two daughters. He also leaves behind four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. After graduating high school in 1942, Freeman enlisted in the U.S. Army to become a paratrooper in 1944 with "Easy Company" in the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He was assigned as a motorman in the company. Bradford Freeman, the last remaining member of the World War II U.S. Army paratroop regiment known as the "Band of Brothers" which inspired the book and HBO miniseries of the same name, has died at the age of 97. Freeman passed away in Columbus, Mississippi, at the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle according to the Lowndes Funeral Home & Crematory.

Freeman jumped in the Normandy D-Day invasion, fought in Operation Market-Garden in German-occupied Netherlands, and took part in the Battle of Bulge in Belgium, where he was injured. After recovering, he rejoined his company in 1945 and participated in the occupation of Berchtesgaden near the Austrian border, where Hitler's "Eagles Nest" retreat home was located, and the occupation of Austria in the waning days of the war. Writes historian Stephen E. Ambrose who documented and interviewed members of Easy Company in his book Band of Brothers. The book went on to inspire the acclaimed 2001 HBO miniseries of the same name, created by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. Freeman was portrayed by James Farmer in a nonverbal role, per the New York Times. After being discharged in 1945, per the Times, Freeman returned to his birthplace and home in Caledonia, Mississippi, where he worked as a mailman for 32 years. He married his wife Willie Louise Gurley in 1947.

After the passing of the last remaining officer of Easy Company, Col. Edward Shames, in December 2021, Freeman became the last surviving member of the company.

The final remaining recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War II, Hershel "Woody" Williams, passed away at the end of June. Kudos to Ethan Letkeman for publicizing his article on this amazing man. In my opinion, they ALL are amazing! -Semper Paratus

## Letters To The Editor

### Roe v. Wade

Dear Editor,

One of the founding precepts of Joshua's Warriors is the Biblical sanctity of life (Genesis 9:6; 2 Peter 3:9). God's word is clear, life is a gift from Him (Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Samuel 2:6; Psalm 139:13-16). Life is not arbitrarily designed. God knows each individual before they were born and already has plans for their lives (Exodus 21:22-23; Isaiah 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5). With this powerful evidence and authority of God's Word concerning life, it is abundantly clear that we do not have the right to destroy that which He holds so precious. To emphasize that more clearly, God commanded, "Thou Shall Not Kill!" (Deuteronomy 5:17). For nearly 50 years our nation has stood in opposition to God's Word. On June 24th, 2022, a decision was made by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) that overturned Roe v. Wade, thus ending nationwide abortion.

SCOTUS has determined that this is now each State's responsibility to decide. We thank God for this decision and ask that you will join us in praying that every individual State legislature will now affirm and uphold this ruling and preserve life in the womb and end the sin of abortion.

Pray for peace and healing, and courage for God's people to stand strong in their faith. God bless our nation during this turbulent time in our history. (2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.")

**Joshua's Warriors**  
 Blairsville, GA

### Who's In Charge

Dear Editor,

The late Billy Graham, who preached all over the world, said: God has always been in charge of all that goes on in this old sinful world, whether we believe in Him or not. It is a true statement that is being played out according to God's purpose and will for all His creation. Suffering is no surprise to the Lord Jesus. He warned us that we would face uncertainty, persecution and trouble of every kind. He Himself suffered for us, and we will also face trials and sorrows as Scripture speaks about. But the Lord Jesus never gives warning without a promise. John 16:33—These things I have spoken to you—in this world you will have tribulations but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world. End of quote.

So how do we as followers of Christ deal with these issues on a daily basis? Do we throw in the towel or throw up our hands in disgust? Do we blame the Lord Jesus Christ for what yet is coming in the days ahead or just bury our head in the sand of despair and hope for the best? Of course not! In Hebrews 13:5, Jesus said: I will never leave you or forsake you. I am here to the end of this age and will usher you into the next world where nothing will harm you again. We are to stand tall and with a courageous heart, push onward towards the prize which is set before us, for with God on our side who can be against us?

Jesus didn't come from heaven and die for us so that we could have a comfortable life without any problems or trials to face. Without these troubles why would we need God in the first place? God never promised an easy walk through this sinful world, but He did promise us a glorious new heaven and earth in the next life, which is just the beginning of a beautiful relationship with a Savior who will be our King Jesus. He paid it all so that we could live with Him for all eternity.

**Frank F. Combs**



## A Brief History of Tractors

Tractor was my first word and to Linda's dismay talk one of my favorite things to talk about or should I say 13 of my favorite things.

Yep, I do have 13 tractors around my farm... 4 run most of the time and a couple more will run with a good Saturday to finish up the projects I started on them. One needs painting, one needs the power steering hooked up and some of the others, well they need a lot of TLC, time and \$.

Several members of my "herd" go back to my childhood on my Granddad's and Dad's farm, so they are real antiques, 1944 Ford 2N, 1947 Ford 2N, 1950 Ford 8N, and 1972 MF 202. When I was 5 or 6, I would straddle the hood and ride with my Grandfather on the 1944 Ford as he plowed corn. I have loaned that 1944 Ford "Harley" to the FFA class at Woody Gap school for the students to restore to its former glory. The rest of my collection are a 1950 Ford 8N, "Pappy", a 1954 Ford 740 tricycle "Mr. Billy", a 1958 Ford 871 Select-O-Speed "Morris", a 1964 Ford 4000 "James" that was bought new here in 1964, a 1964 Ford 4000 Tricycle "Wayne", a 1959 John Deere 435D "Richard", a 1959 Ford 641 "Thelma", a 2012 Kubota with a cab, AC, heat, and 4WD (my favorite), and a couple of other old Fords as donors for parts to keep these relics running. I name my tractors for who I got them from.

My tractor shed is my happy place and working on these time capsules brings back memories of growing up on the farm. The farm tractor is used for pulling or pushing agricultural machinery or trailers, for plowing, tilling, disking, harrowing, planting, and similar tasks.

Farm tractors run so much of our lives and aid in more things than the average American may realize. Its history is unique and thrilling. Tractors first emerged in the early 19th century when steam engines on wheels were used to help drive mechanical farm machinery using a flexible belt. The first portable steam engine used for agricultural purposes was invented by Richard Trevithick in 1812 and it was known as the Barn Engine. The Barn Engine was mainly used to drive a corn threshing machine. Advances continued and improvements to engines began to develop as the history of tractors continued.

By 1903, Charles W. Hart and Charles H. Parr had successfully built the first American tractor using a two-cylinder gasoline engine. Their firm went on to build 15 farm tractors. Their 14,000-pound tractor is now on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. as the oldest surviving internal combustion engine tractor in the United States.

Between 1916-1922, more than 100 companies were producing farm tractors for farm uses. John Deere had previously created the first steel plow in 1837, and by 1927 they produced the first combine. By 1928, the first General Purpose Tractor was introduced, which allowed for planting and cultivating three rows at a time, increasing productivity. Until the late 1930s, farm tractors had steel wheels, making farmers very cautious about whether rubber wheels would be able to do as much work as those with steel wheels.

However, by 1939, the JD Model "B" tractor was introduced with an electric starter and lights, rubber tires, and higher horsepower. The JD Model "R" tractor was the first John Deere tractor that had more than 40 horsepower, as well as the first diesel tractor. The evolution of tractors continued and by 1966, John Deere became the first manufacturer to offer farmers a tractor that had a roll bar to help protect the operator. By the early 1970s, farm tractors started to feature more comfortable seating for the operator and a sound guard protecting the tractor cab, helping to shield them from heat, cold, and dust. From feeding animals to tilling the land, there is a farm tractor for every need. This technology helps farmers to be more efficient, effective, and accurate in how they plant and produce.

A variety of specialty farm tractors have been developed for particular uses. These include "row crop" tractors with adjustable tread width to allow the tractor to pass down rows of crops without crushing the plants, "wheatland" or "standard" tractors with fixed wheels and a lower center of gravity for plowing and other heavy field work for broadcast crops, and "high crop" tractors with adjustable tread and increased ground clearance, often used in the cultivation of high-growing row crop plants, and "utility tractors", typically smaller tractors with a low center of gravity and short turning radius, used for general purposes around the farmstead.

Space technology has been incorporated into agriculture in the form of GPS devices, and robust on-board computers installed on farm tractors. These technologies are used in modern, precision farming techniques. These technologies have actually facilitated automation in plowing and the use of auto-steer systems that are manned but only steered at the end of a row. The idea being to neither overlap and use more fuel nor leave streaks when performing jobs such as cultivating.

Next week I will visit Keller's John Deere collection in Wisconsin with 600 of the finest examples of John Deeres from its beginning to the 1970's...my other happy place.



## Guest Columns

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

## Pollinator Census

2022 is the fourth annual Great Georgia Pollinator Census. Year after year the pollinator census is a huge success.



It is the first of its kind and has really generated some great data on pollinators. It's also a great way for citizens to become involved, learn about, and protect pollinators. This year's census will be held on August 19th and 20th. Let's talk about how you can be involved this year.

The pollinator census comes together because of the hard work of Becky Griffin. Becky works at GMREC just south of Blairsville. With concerns about pollinator decline, the census allows us to capture critical data that can be used year after year to track the health and wellbeing of pollinators.

Some locations will have guided counts. If you're unsure of how to participate, joining a guided count is a great way to be a part of the census. Check the GGPC website (<https://ggpc.org/>) to see if there is a count near you. If you would like to participate from home that is also possible.

If you want to join the pollinator census at home it's very simple. Go to the [ggpc.org](https://ggpc.org/) website. There you will find the different categories of pollinators. Each census count will be done by observing a flowering plant for 15 minutes.

For the census, there are eight categories that you count insects. They are: carpenter bee, bumblebee, honeybee, small bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and other insects. Let's go through how to identify each of the insects in these categories.

Carpenter bees are going to be the largest of the bees that we see. They look very similar to bumble bees. The major difference is that carpenter bees have no hair on their abdomen (also known as their hind end). Carpenter and bumble bees have yellow and black hair. Bumblebees will have all black hair on their abdomens.

Honeybees are smaller than bumblebees and will have brown or blackish stripes mixed with golden-brown. They have hair down their whole body. Small bees are any bee smaller than a honeybee. We have many different species of small bees out there that are native pollinators. These native pollinators are very important for pollinating native plants. Small bees can be down to the length of a staple.

Wasps include paper wasps and potter wasps. They are important pollinators for certain plants like rattlesnake master. Flies are pollinators too. They will only have two wings and large eyes. Some flies have coloring to make them look like a bee or wasps to avoid predators. In nature, this is called mimicry.

Butterflies are usually pretty easy to identify because of their wings and variation of colors. The other category includes all other insects that may land on the plant while you're watching it. This could be beetles, dragonflies, lacewings, or ants.

After you've done your count for 15 minutes go to [ggpc.org](https://ggpc.org/) to enter your results. You can do the census as many times as you'd like on the 19th and 20th. If you see an insect leave your plant and come back count that as a new visitor.

If you have questions about the pollinator census contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Habitat for Humanity

What is community? Community is the force that bonds humans together. As humans, we crave comforts: food, shelter, companionship. Whatever our stories and backgrounds are, we have come together to form our community. Community invokes a sense of safety, and by showing compassion for fellow community members, we strengthen our community as a whole.



Recently we completed a Helping Hands project for our friend Melissa. After many months of trying to get her comfort of living up to par, Habitat was successful. Melissa is now a regular volunteer at our ReStore, not only to repay her services, but also because she found a part of our community which she loves. Melissa recently wrote:

"When NO one else was willing to lend a helping hand, (due to my unorthodox life choice to live affordably ... in a Shuttle bus), literally no one was willing to help me. One and a half years of living in a bus has taught me to take absolutely nothing for granted ... and how vital water is for sustainable living. Many thanks to: David, Charlotte, Stephanie, the Habitat board members, and all of the amazing souls at Union County Habitat. I'm truly beyond grateful to you all for not turning a blind eye, rising to the challenge and the altruistically benevolent blessing of running water that will truly change the quality of my life! You've all restored my faith in human kindness."

At Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties, we are driven by the principle "A Hand Up, not a Hand Out." We help those to help themselves, whether the return is volunteer related, or an interest free loan to fix your house. That being said, as of last Friday, Habitat officially has a waiting list of those in need through our Helping Hands Program. I challenge you to come forward and help our fellow community members. If you are a plumber, an electrician, a handyman or roofer, your skill sets are extremely valuable in changing the lives of others. Whether your intention is to serve others, serve your community, deepen your personal or professional goals, Habitat is a great way to lead by example.

Feel free to email [operations@townsunionhabitat.org](mailto:operations@townsunionhabitat.org) if you or someone you know is interested in getting involved with our Helping Hands Program.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

# Towns County Herald

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**Kenneth West**  
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**Shawn Jarrard**  
 General Manager/Editor

**Todd Forrest**  
 Staff Writer

**Derek Richards**  
 Advertising Director

**Jordan Hyatt**  
 Office Manager

**Lowell Nicholson**  
 Photographer

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Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee  
 Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)  
 Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546