

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

May we never forget...

Towns County
Lost Another
Fine American
Our Su-
preme Command-
er, our Creator
called this fine
quiet, gentle man

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



Home on August 20, this year. In a loving tribute to his dad, Fred Tolar penned this very condensed biography for a fine man to be published, for all to learn. We cannot know them all who did so much for all of us and our Sovereign Republic. That being said we can try to know about them and honor them all.

Robert Tolar, Col. U.S. Army (Ret.)

Robert Tolar never intended to make the military his career. He planned to follow his older brother and become a lawyer but just before his 17th birthday the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor bringing the United States into World War II.

The youngest son of two teachers at Young Harris College he had graduated from high school at 15 and was about to complete a two year associates degree in the spring of 1942. He was offered an appointment to West Point and saw it as an opportunity to serve his country and further his education. Robert Tolar had not been the first choice for the appointment. The first candidate had failed to meet the academic requirements and the second candidate failed the physical. So through an unlikely set of coincidences he started on a path that lead to 30 years of military service through three wars.

He was just old enough to enter the Military Academy in the spring of 1942. His father took him to Atlanta and put him on a train for New York City where he would have to take a cab to another train station in the city for his train ride to West Point. This was a big adventure for a country boy from the mountains of north Georgia.

On graduating in June of 1945 he would have been slated for the invasion of mainland Japan but the dropping of the two atomic bombs forced the Japanese to surrender and he was subsequently sent to Germany. As a young 2nd lieutenant he was running displaced persons camps, POW camps and other duties that would normally have been assigned to more senior officers. He returned to the US in 1948 and was stationed at Ft. Knox before going to Ft. Benning to command training companies. In 1953 he was sent to Korea for a 16 month tour.

On his return he taught ROTC at NC State before being sent to the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. This was followed by tours in Italy (Southern European Task Force) and then a three year stint with the Inspector General in Washington, D.C.

The war in Viet Nam was ramping up and in 1966 he he was deployed with the First Cavalry Division in the central highlands of that country. He returned in 1967 and was stationed at 5th Army headquarters at Ft. Sheridan, IL. His final assignment was as Comptroller at Ft. Gordon, GA.

He retired in June of 1975 completing 30 years of active duty. He returned to Young Harris, his boyhood home, where he built a house and spent his time gardening, reading and enjoying the beautiful country he had defended most of his adult life for the next 47 years.

Adrift

We pause this week to remember Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away peacefully last Thursday at the age of 96.

Some may wonder what effect, if any, the life and death of another nation's monarch has on our far away little corner of the world. The answer is in the realization that we are a product of what came before us, whether or not we have any sense of history or heritage at all.

Elizabeth was an icon of the Greatest Generation, and she lived their highest ideals. Her life was guided by faith and principle, defined by duty, honor, and accountability. Despite the flaws of their humanity, these were the guideposts of our parents and grandparents, and their absence feeds our floundering frustrations today.

Elizabeth raised a family, and struggled as we do with relatives that we prefer not to mention. While she was one of the world's most recognizable celebrities, she did not market her dirty laundry, or burden us with an incessant narcissistic broadcasting of opinions and feelings which is the defining attribute of celebrity, and just about everyone else today.

Elizabeth wielded a tremendous amount of power and influence, and she did so with grace and style. She was involved in over 600 charities and organizations. She could drive a jeep, ride a horse and change a diaper. She was a queen, and also a mother and wife. In an age where an inflamed fringe of our culture wants to pretend that we don't know what a woman is, we can look at Elizabeth until the end of history and say, now there was a woman!

The inflamed fringe seeks to dismantle history and heritage, and force us to see everything and everyone through lenses of race and gender. The mouthpieces of this adversarial paradigm are already denigrating Elizabeth and her legacy, attempting to peg her to a shameful imperialistic past, ignoring the fact that the Empire was dismantled during her reign, and that she personally supported that process.

The sun set on the Empire long ago. Back home the sun rises over the mountain just as brightly as it did yesterday, and turning again to the chores at hand, the events across the pond seem far away. I'll chop wood and carry water, just like I did the day before, but today the memory of my parents and grandparents follows me. I think of their WWII stories, and their struggles, sacrifices and triumphs.

Elizabeth was one of the last of that generation, the last generation to be anchored in reality, reality defined by faith and purpose. We have weighed anchor now, and we are adrift. Many hands grab for the rudder, and among them, so many needy hands, weak hands, soft, clammy, some desperate. Strong hands are needed now, but the fringe says strength is a flaw.

Despots arise during times when too many weak hands grasp for the rudder. Elizabeth's generation fought a world war to overcome the despots of her time, and the world today has several candidates who aspire to that kind of power. At a time when we need strength, a suicidal paradigm which claims that reality is what we feel it to be, prevents us from guiding the ship. Godspeed, Elizabeth, and God save the rest of us.



Cover Crops

Planting cover crops year after year provides many benefits to the soil. Let's talk a little more about what a cover crop is, why you should plant one, and how to go about doing that.

Watching and Working
Jacob Williams

A cover crop is a crop that you plant to cover the ground. (How's that for using the word in the definition?) Most of the time cover crops are planted in the fall and grow through the winter to be terminated in spring before you plant your garden. There are summer cover crops that can be grown, but I'm going to focus on winter cover crops, because of the time of year right now. Typically, a cover crop is a cereal grain (e.g. rye, or wheat), brassica (e.g. forage turnip or wild radish), or a legume (e.g. clover or vetch). You can also plant combinations of the three.

Cover crops benefit soil health in a multitude of ways. One of those is that cover crops help build organic matter in the soil. A cover crop like rye produces a lot of biomass, when that biomass is tilled into the soil before spring planting, it gives the microbes in the soil material to work on to turn into organic matter. Because of the rainfall and heat that we have in the southeast, organic matter will decompose faster than it's created. Therefore giving those soil microbes materials to turn into organic matter will allow you to increase your organic matter over time.

Cover crops also reduce erosion. After pulling the crops that you had planted in the summer the soil may be left bare. A cover crop will protect that soil, and hold it in place to keep it from washing away. Cover crops can also reduce weeds. Some crops like rye will release chemicals that are like a natural herbicide. You can also use cover crops as a natural mat, that blocks sunlight, and so make it more difficult for weeds to grow. Certain cover crops like brassicas that produce a large taproot can be used to alleviate compaction. That large taproot will break up the soil and can penetrate hard layers in the soil.

All of these attributes make cover crops very beneficial to the soil. So how do you grow a cover crop? The ideal time to plant a cover crop is between Labor Day and mid October. If you're planting a cereal grain, you'll want to plant 3-4 pounds of seed per 1000 square feet. Brassicas need 1-2 pounds of seed per 1000 square feet. Legumes need a quarter pound per 1000 square feet because the seeds are very small. Legumes are able to fix nitrogen because they have a symbiotic relationship with bacteria. Therefore, it's important to inoculate your soil with the appropriate bacteria if you're putting out legumes. Allow the cover crop to grow throughout the winter. Depending on the cover crop that you use, you may need to add some fertilizer. 2-3 weeks before planting your summer plants, you'll need to terminate the cover crop by cutting it and tilling it into the soil.

If you have questions about cover crops contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

I am hosting program on Georgia Ginseng on October 3rd via webinar from 6 – 8 pm. If you are interested in attending you can register at this link. https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5aUUKTweao23ZQ

Letters To The Editor

Wonderful Young Men

Dear Editor,

The Towns County Football Coach and players invited Hiawassee Park Senior Living Community residents to be their special guests at the first home game on Friday, Aug 26. About 20 of us were able to attend. We were so impressed! It was a great night. Not only did the Towns County team win, but EVERY FOOTBALL PLAYER came by with the most sincerity, thanking us for coming! What wonderful young men. I give credit to Coach Roquemore for not only teaching football but how to be fine young men. I also know that the parents play a huge part in this effort. We plan on attending more games this season to support our Towns County Football team.

Sincerely,
Susan Palmich

Refusing Responsibility

Dear Editor,

Biden is up to his old tricks again. Nearly every problem that America is facing has happened under his watch from day one. He doesn't speak about the problems because he isn't going to fix them. From inflation, border crisis (and it is a crime), catch and release bail, student loan debt, deadly drugs like fentanyl killing people in America from China and the cartels, car-jackings and attacking/beating innocent men and women in the streets, and not supporting law enforcement. You say law enforcement needs reform; what about criminals that have outstanding warrants? They resist arrest with knives and guns or just resist arrest and try to drive away with law enforcement hanging out the door. Criminals give good reason for law enforcement to react with force because their lives are in danger, too.

Biden loves name-calling. He blames the Republicans for all his problems, or Trump. Trump has been out of the picture for a while, and it's not Putin's fault, either. We are not terrorists, a cult or an enemy of the state, he calls us Fascist MAGA Voters. He uses fear and intimidation. He wants you to believe him because he wants your vote, and he has done this before. He thinks you are not smart enough to figure out what he is doing and why. Your vote should not be for sale at any price.

We have to stand confident on what we believe as Americans, because this will affect everyone. Please, please pray for our country. God Bless the United States of America, and get out and vote in this election. Georgia is counting on you.
Charlotte Thompson

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Fire Prevention Week 2022

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, which takes place October 9-15. This theme reinforces the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly. In addition, this October represents the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest-running public health observance on record.

"This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign capitalizes on its milestone anniversary, celebrating all we've accomplished in reducing the public's risk to fire over the past hundred years," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of the NFPA Outreach and Advocacy division. "At the same time, the theme, 'Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape,' addresses challenges that remain." According to NFPA data, home — the place people feel safest from fire — is actually where they are at greatest risk, with three-quarters (74 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths occurring in the home. When a home fire does occur, it's more likely to be serious; people are more likely to die in a home fire today than they were in 1980. "Today's homes burn faster and hotter than they used to, minimizing the amount of time they have to escape safely," said Carli. "In a typical home fire, you may have as little as two minutes to get out from the time the smoke alarm sounds."

The theme "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape" promotes potentially life-saving messages that can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly ensures that everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and uses that time wisely.

Following are key messages behind this year's theme: Make sure your home escape plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities. Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound. Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily. Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet. Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

As the biggest annual campaign at NFPA, Fire Prevention Week works to educate people about the leading risks to home fires and ways they can better protect themselves and their loved ones. Local fire departments play a key role in bringing Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year and spreading basic but critical fire safety messages. Join NFPA in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week (FPW).

This year's FPW campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape," works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning. Fire Prevention Week was started by the NFPA in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week to occur from October 4th through October 10th, 1925. President Calvin Coolidge stated that, "This waste results from the conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror; for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented... It is highly desirable that every effort be made to reform the conditions which have made possible so vast a destruction of the national wealth."

The Great Chicago Fire burned between October 8th to October 10th, with most of the damage done on October 9th. The fire caused roughly \$200 million in damages, killing around 300 people, and destroying over 17,000 buildings and structures. The consequences were more than just fire damage itself; The fire was said to have started when a cow kicked over a lantern in the O'Leary barn in the southwest side of the city. Today, the Chicago Fire Department Training Academy is located on the site of the O'Leary property where the fire started.

Did you know that there was a fire that occurred during the same time frame as the Great Chicago Fire in 1871? On October 8, 1871, the Peshtigo Fire swept through northeast Wisconsin. The Peshtigo Fire is the most devastating forest fire in American history, claiming 1,200 lives and scorched 1.2 million acres. The damage estimate was at \$169 million for the time, which would equate to over 38 billion dollars in 2022."

Take some time to visit firepreventionweek.org to learn more about National Fire Prevention Week. The life you save might be yours or someone in your family!

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.

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Executive Director

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