

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## 11-11-11 Please Come!

What is Veterans Day and why 11-11-11? Here is a tidbit of history:

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



World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." As we all sadly know WWI was NOT the war to end all wars. As long as people inhabit this planet, we call earth, there will be conflicts and war. Besides history and mankind's jealous, self-serving nature, our Holy Bibles teaches us this fact. Whereby on May 13, 1938 November 11th became recognized as Armistice Day. The Act of 1938 was amended by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. And as is noted Veterans Day is meant to honor world peace held securely in the willing hearts, souls and arms of those who serve our Sovereign Republic dear and near.

That being said, within our population of our Sovereign Republic, we are truly Blessed to have the minority of folks, men and women who are willing to sacrifice and serve our nation's military forces who strive to keep America (you and I) secure and who wish to prevent war. "Si vis pacem, para bellum" being the old Latin adage meaning, IF YOU WANT PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR. Minus our men and women who volunteer to sacrifice for America, we would be conquered and taken over by those evil folks who despise what America stands for.

Did you notice there is not an apostrophe in [Veteran's] Day? Why? No one owns Veterans Day, it is a ceremony to Honor all Veterans and America. Veterans Day belongs to no one! Very same reason that I titled Veterans Corner minus the apostrophe and I always try to remember to capitalize the letter "V" in Veterans.

Sometimes folks become confused by Veterans Day versus Memorial Day. They are two entirely differing observances. Memorial Day is the time in the spring each year when we remember and Honor those who died while serving our Country, particularly in battle or from wounds.

So. Please come attend this forthcoming Veterans Day, our sacred ceremony at Towns County Veterans Memorial Park, listen to our keynote speaker a retired General, and honor our very own Towns County Veterans who have been called home by our Supreme Commander most recently and now have their names engraved on our small granite wall of honor. This forthcoming Friday, November 11, 2022, 11Am SHARP. Kudos and thanks to our VFW Post 7807 and especially American Legion post #23, and Commander Randal Forehand for their efforts in making this event possible. - *Semper Paratus!*

## Letters To The Editor

### What will we do?

Dear Editor,  
I'm thinking out loud, so don't read this if you don't want to be offended. Being silent is mistaken for approval. Let's change that.

Lord, you will take out the evil among us. Evil can be found in all races, genders and political parties! Evil causes hearts of stone. A love for power, control, dominance over others and conformity. Some have made their way to seats of authority, but not for good. I believe in choice, here it is: We will either conform God's Truth, where there is light, life and freedom, or we will conform God's Truth to what man's wisdom says it is. Are we going to choose to abandon that Truth so we can get along? Once we cross that line, more will be demanded.

Evil has no boundaries and is no respecter of persons.

**Geri Poirier**

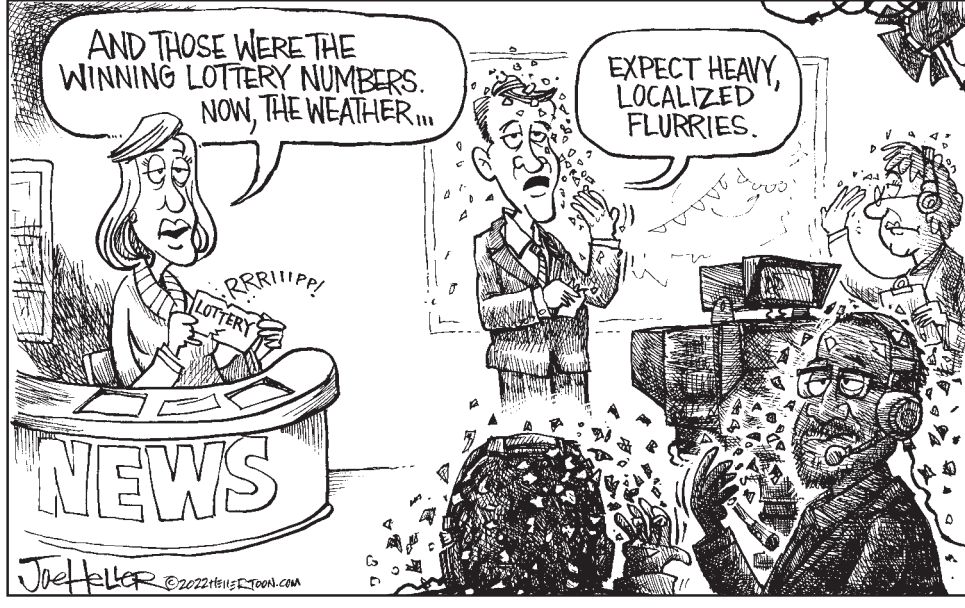
### The Holy Spirit

Dear Editor,  
What was the reason why Jesus Christ told His disciples that when He went back to heaven after His resurrection He would send the Holy Spirit to live inside of them that would be their guide, their counselor, their helper in times of trouble and the wisdom and knowledge they would need to deal with different situations? If the Holy Spirit is not living inside of you, dear friends, then you are as lost as a child in a forest, but the good news is there is hope for the lost if you come like a little child and accept Christ into your life, then confess your sins and repent of them and ask God to forgive you, and He promises He will, then the Holy Spirit comes to live within you, never to leave you till God calls you home.

If you go to a church that doesn't preach and teach God's Holy Word and no mention of the Holy Spirit, then you need to find a church that does, because Satan has infiltrated that church with his evilness, and those who serve him will surely die in their sin. My question is: Do you as a Christian possess the Spirit of God in your heart? If not, you need to get right with your Maker and Redeemer, Christ, Jesus. I have been blessed in the past years to lead folks to the Lord, not on my own power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. You see, I can't save anyone, just like your pastor, or elder or deacon or even a priest, but if they possess the Holy Spirit In them, it is the Holy Spirit that convicts them of their wrong so they can turn away from their sin and follow Christ.

Oh, the awesome power of the Holy Spirit that enables everyone to be what God created them to be, a child of God who will serve faithfully the calling on their heart from a loving heavenly Father who longs for all to live in heaven for eternity. Don't think just because you call yourself a Christian that you are. You can truly call yourself a follower of Christ when you follow the words above that will lead you into all truth. Sadly, a lot of good-meaning folks don't ever open God's word to hear what He has to say to the lost without a Savior. This article is not to scare you but to inform you of what must take place in order for you to have the Holy Spirit that will safely lead you home to glory.

**Frank F. Combs**



## Shut Up and Carry On

My grandfather rarely talked about politics and advised his children and grandchildren to avoid the subject. He never said so, but I'm confident this wisdom came at a high price. During WWII the local draft board in our poor mountain county had refrained from calling up the few young men from the area who were fortunate enough to be in college, but when it was discovered that my grandfather had "voted wrong," they called up his son as punishment and they told him so. It seems that "cancel culture" is nothing new.

We've avoided the subject of politics here for a while now. All the news about it, the opinions, the talking heads, the headlines, are like itching powder, and we wonder why we keep having to scratch. But with the election just around the corner I'm reluctantly crouched at the computer this morning with a few words of wisdom purchased at the cost of years of observation and no small amount of discomfort.

Don't tell anyone how you're going to vote, and when you have voted, don't tell anyone who you voted for. There is a reason ballots are secret. You're not going to change anyone's mind, and with all the hurt feelings and goading from politicians and corporate media, people have huge chips on their shoulders. You might lose a friend. I've seen that happen more than once in recent years. If someone tries to tell you how they voted, try to change the subject as soon as possible. Consider for a moment how many people you think less of now that you know about their politics. Let that sink in for a minute.

Your politics doesn't matter much beyond local and state elections, and it doesn't matter at all beyond the grave. I know. Civilization itself is at stake yet again and news is breaking and all that, but the hands grasping for the rudder of the ship of state are essentially apolitical. To the owners of those hands, politics is for the little people, a tool to be used for gaining and maintaining power, and it doesn't matter how the tool is labelled or whether it comes in a red box or a blue one. We could go on about this for hours, but if you will consider just this one thing, you may get the point: In spite of all the hateful rhetoric in Congress, and no matter who sits in the White House, the political class is always able to work together to make sure that, one, plenty of weapons are sold overseas and two, salaries, benefits and perks for the political class are always increasing. OK that was two things, but we're talking about politics now, so we can be liberal with the facts as long as we push the narrative forward.

Vote your conscience, shut up about it and carry on. Don't make the mistake of assuming that someone who votes differently is lacking in that department. Just about everyone you could possibly meet has a conscience as well, and some basis for making value judgments. Whether guided by faith, tradition, peer pressure or popular culture, no one gets up in the morning intending to do ill unless they are deranged or criminally insane.

You may suspect that your neighbor who votes differently suffers from some form of mental illness, but it's best to keep that to yourself. You can't cure it, but you can treat it with kindness. The possibility of mental illness increases dramatically for the political class, which seems to suffer from an epidemic of various forms of narcissism. Keep that in mind if you find yourself waving a banner with someone's name on it or getting angry when anyone criticizes the name on that banner as if they had insulted your mama.

By the time you read this, the damage will most likely be done and a new round of gaslighting and drama will have commenced. The headlines will dutifully report the accusations and recriminations, and of course the celebrity reactions to it all. The planet, however, will not slow its rotation nor pause for even the briefest possible moment in its journey around the sun to acknowledge our upset or concern about the election results. Our immortal souls, when they are weighed in the balance, will not be judged on how we voted, but rather on whether or not we were kind to our neighbors, and how we used the brief and precious time that was given us.

## 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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## Leave the Leaves

The ground everywhere you go now seems like it's littered with leaves. However, we shouldn't think of leaves as litter. They are a natural product that is beneficial in a lot of ways. Let's talk about some of the benefits that leaves provide, and why leaving them is good for the environment.

**UGA Extension**  
Watching and Working  
Jacob Williams



In the fall most, people will get out their rakes and leaf blowers to remove the leaves from their yards. The end result is a yard that looks very tidy and neat, but also a yard that has removed a crucial element of the nutrient cycle and disrupted the life cycle of many beneficial insects. I would argue that there are some places where you should remove the leaves. Like your driveway or walkways because they can create a hazard. I have also raked a small portion of my yard because my daughter loves a good leaf pile, and I'm not going to keep that happiness from her. But in the rest of the yard and the surrounding woods it's beneficial to leave those leaves in place.

Fallen leaves create organic matter for the soil. As the leaves break down they return the nutrients that they are holding back to the soil. This is an important part of the nutrient cycle. In the spring trees will withdraw nutrients from the ground and start to make those leaves. In the fall when the leaves drop, the leaves are still holding the nutrients. Each individual leaf may not have a lot of nutrients, but collectively their nutrient load is important. Allowing those leaves to return their nutrients to the soil completes the nutrient cycle. Leaving the leaves in plant beds around your house is a good thing for the plants. It will also help reduce weeds, since it serves as a mulch layer. A light layer of leaves over grass will benefit the grass too. On grass, if the leaves are too thick, it can damage the grass.

Another great benefit of leaving the leaves is that it helps beneficial insects. Lots of insects will lay their eggs in the leaves. Butterflies and moths will lay eggs in the leaves to emerge next year. Bumblebees, Luna moths, and swallowtail butterflies will over winter just under the soil line. A layer of leaf mulch protects these important pollinators.

Lots of animals rely on the mammals too. Turtles, toads, birds, salamanders, and small mammals use the leaves for food, shelter, and nesting material. All of these critters need a place to spend the winter.

If you have more leaves than you can handle consider putting the extra around trees, ornamental plants, and in garden beds as a natural mulch. It's better to not shred the leaves as this will destroy any insects or eggs that are in the leaves.

Grass for lawns is the largest irrigated 'crop' in the US at over 40 million acres. That's more than any other irrigated crop or soybean. If everyone made sure that their lawn was a welcome habitat for pollinators and other critters it would make a huge difference. If you have questions about your leaves, 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 companionship, 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.

**Habitat Happenings**  
Executive Director  
Charlotte Randall



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, 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 into 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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

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P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546  
Our email address: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)

Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste.

Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.\*

*Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.*

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# Towns County Herald

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