

# MADD Awards...continued from Page 1A

County sheriff's Deputy David McGregor and Hiwassee Police Sgt. Arvil Walls were honored with MADD's Lifetime Achievement Award, which honored them for sustained outstanding service in the field of public safety and criminal justice.

The criterion for receiving this award is demanding and includes, but, is not limited to 25 years of consecutive service.

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and his deputies were very proud of Deputy McGregor and congratulated him on a job well done as he received a standing ovation for his honor and years of consecutive law enforcement service.

Post 27 of Blue Ridge was named the Georgia State Patrol Post of the Year, and Post 27 Trooper Tony Saunders was named



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and members of his department at the MADD Awards on Friday. Deputies Chad Deyton and David McGregor brought home hardware. Photo/Joe Collins

Trooper of the Year. The banquet was well attended with more than 100 law enforcement officers gathering to have a delicious meal prepared by the banquet staff at Union County Community Center that included steak, salad, vegetables, sweet tea and of course a really nice slice of cherry cheesecake to finish off the meal.

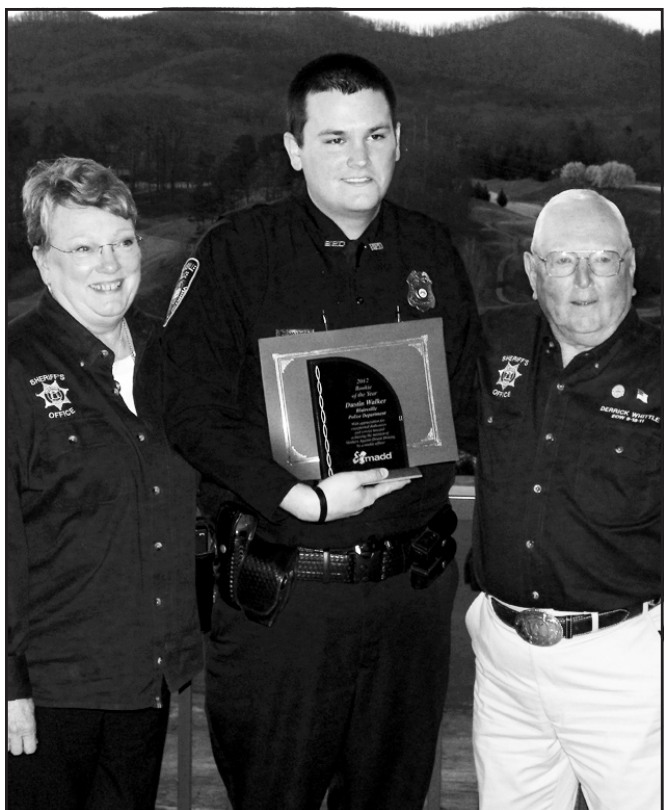
Those attending the event included Ricky Rich and John Gardner from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Jim and Sharon Whittle the parents of fallen Union County sheriff's Deputy Derrick

Whittle whose End of Watch (E.O.W.) came on Sept. 18, 2011, three days after he sustained critical injuries in a crash while answering a domestic call with weapons involved in Union County, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley.

MADD Cherokee is the local branch of the nationwide MADD network and serves the North Georgia area to support law enforcement in their efforts to keep local roads free of drunk drivers.

They also provide counseling to families and

victims of DUI crimes to help them better adjust after suffering pain and loss. They presented 17 different awards for the officers and agencies that were determined by the MADD Awards Banquet Committee to have gone above and beyond the call of duty to fight drunk driving and for lifetime achievement. The *North Georgia News* tips its hat to MADD and the brave law enforcement officers that keep our roads safe from drunk drivers and put their lives on the line everyday to ensure our safety.



Blairsville Police Officer Dustin Walker, is congratulated by Jim and Sharon Whittle for being named 2012 Rookie of the Year. Photo/Joe Collins.



Post 27 Trooper Tony Saunders is named 2012 Trooper of the Year. Photo/Joe Collins

## Breakfast

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off without our incredible crew of volunteers," Shea said. "It's all about brotherhood, community and making a difference here.

"It's good brotherhood for those who come to help, it's good brotherhood for those who come to dine with us," Shea said. "It also lets everyone know what we're trying to accomplish in the community. We want to do good things in this community."

Brother Ed Turner has been around for quite some time, and he says the annual breakfast event has been going on every since he can remember.

"We've served a lot of meals out of this Lodge," Turner said. "And we've enjoyed every minute."

The Scottish Festival is the Lodge's next event, and they'll be serving burgers, hot dogs, sausages with drinks and chips. That will be a two-day event at Meeks Park during the Highland Games.

"It's a good fundraiser," Turner said. "We got rained out last year on Sunday. We had a good Saturday and Sunday was a washout."

Brother Richard Hoi-braten said the events aren't just about raising money. It's also about fellowship.

"It's all about bringing people together," he said. "They come in here, they spend time with us, and they see what all this is about. The icing on the cake is they get a good meal to go with that."

"We get to help make a difference for some lucky students each year with some scholarship money," Hoi-braten said. "Hey, they're our future, and every little bit helps."

Allegheny No. 114 has given out as many as seven \$500 scholarships in one year. They also helped 45 families at Thanksgiving with food boxes, and 55 families at Christmas. They also were able to provide 60 Widows Baskets, Turner said.

"What's more important in life than helping your fellow man?" Turner asked.