

Ramp...from Page 1A

"It was a lot larger than normal," Cummings said. "We started out with 100 trout and we sold out of them. We have no ramps left, everything is gone – the demand was there."

"People came from all over to be here," Cummings said. "People were here from as far away as Florida. The word is out about this festival and people know it's a good deal."

The Market also was the scene of the filming of reality TV pilot show *Lick it up!*, which focuses on the Blairsville community.

"It's a reality show and I'm looking forward to see how it turns out," Cummings said. "Weavers' Believers were here, they put on a good show as usual. JoAnne (Leone) did some cooking demonstrations."

"We had a bunch of the old-timers here like Newt Miller was here cooking ramps and fried taters, Brian and Tammy Mason were here cooking," Cummings said. "Doug Towery was here cooking deep fried ramps. Allyson McGraw was in here helping. It was a great day."

Robert Smith was at the festival as physical support for his mother Eleanor Smith. Robert set up his mother's booth. He was also there to help her celebrate her 82nd birthday.

"Great crowds out to-



Tammy Mason serves up a special ramp dish at the 2015 Ramp Festival at the Union County Farmers Market. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

day," Robert Smith said. "They've been cooking trout down at the other shed, they've had ramps and potatoes, ramps with hushpuppies – it was a sight."

Robert Smith said this was his first ramp festival.

"But, it won't be my last," he said. "This ramp festival is so good, I wish they had more than one a year. The Farmers Market is the center of the universe on Saturdays in Blairsville. If you come

here, Blairsville will come to you if you stand still long enough."

Cummings said the ramp festival is a precursor to the real thing – when the Farmers Market opens June 6th.

"This is the largest Ramp Festival we've ever had," Cummings said. "We have three buildings now, we have 84 booths. They're not all full today, but they'll be all full when the Farmers

Market opens June 6.

"I think the Market will be as big as ever," Cummings said. "I expect a lot of repeat business from tourists. We're trying to make the Farmers Market as easy to access as we possibly can. We've enlarged our parking facilities and we're rethinking it to make it as easy as we can for folks to get in here."

"We're hoping the increased traffic from the casino opening in Murphy will mean something special for the Farmers Market," Cummings said. "If they make it to Georgia 515 on Saturday, they'll be in here."

As is tradition in most mountain households, tomato sandwich season should be in full swing when the Market opens June 6, Cummings said.

"We have tomatoes here today," he said. "We'll have fresh tomatoes when the Market opens June 6. We should have squash and cucumbers by the opening. Lettuce and cabbage will be available. We should also have strawberries in abundance."

Mountain View Farms will have fresh milk and eggs, as well as cabbage and broccoli when the Market opens on June 6.

Cummings sends a special invite to the public to help open the 2015 season in style.

"Tell the folks that they won't be disappointed," he said.

Vietnam...from Page 1A

oration with the whole country to welcome these veterans back, and give them the recognition they didn't get, because when they first came back, they were really put down," said DAR Chapter Regent Margaret Wischmeyer.

Leon Davenport, who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and is Union County's most decorated military veteran, thanked all the veterans for their service.

He stressed that it is important to remember "all the ones who went before, as well as the current veterans."

Saturday's ceremony began with the Posting of the Colors by members of the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

Just before veterans were honored, DAR members recited The American's Creed by William Tyler Page, as well as the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

Five Vietnam veterans were honored posthumously in a memorial service involving lit candles for each of the departed and a placing of flowers: Roger R. Brown, Specialist 4, U.S. Army; Herbert C. Davis, Sgt., USA; Anthony Elliot, SP4, USA; David Eric Stites, Submarine Tender, U.S. Navy; and John Henry Woody, PFC, USA.

Veterans who were present were awarded a special certificate from the DAR and thanked for their service: Virginia Berger, Lt., USA Nurse; Charles Cattanach Jr., Sgt., U.S. Air Force; Richard Czeck, Tech Sgt., USAF; Leon Davenport, Major, USA; Wes Dillard, Master Sgt., USAF; Donald J. Guinn, Airman 2nd Class, USAF; Martin Hoffmann Jr., Captain, USA; Lloyd David Junghans, Major, USA; Matthew McGough, 1st Lt., USA; Thomas Pander, Seaman, USN; Dennis Sal-



Retired U.S. Army Major Leon Davenport talks about the Vietnam War on Saturday at Mountain Presbyterian Church. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

vatore, Seaman, U.S. Coast Guard; James A. Smith, Airman 2nd Class, USAF; Norman A. Thompson, Major, USAF; David Werdin, Cpl., U.S. Marine Corps; and Alan Lee Zimmerman, Lt. Col., USAF.

Several Vietnam veterans were unable to attend, but were also honored Saturday: Gary Glen Barnard, Sgt., USA; Clifford Kirby Bowron, SP5, USA; Martha J. Brown, PFC, Women's Army Corp; Bruce B. Gant Jr., Hospital Corpsman, USMC; Wendell Lovingood Jr., Lt. Comm., U.S. Navy Seals; Charles A. Prather, E4, USA; Chuck Shissler, Petty Officer 3rd Class, USN; W. David Sumpter III, Sgt., USAF; and Alex Whitlock, Sgt., USA.

The DAR thanks Commemoration Committee Chairman Wanda Hoffman and committee members Te-

resa Atchison, Mary Ann Foster, Ruth McKinley and Wischmeyer.

Those serving as Color Guard from the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR were Jack Dugger and Sid Turner, both Vietnam veterans, as well as Paul Danner and Devon Turner.

Both the SAR and the DAR are heavily invested in veterans' awareness, because in order to be in either group, prospective members must prove kinship with a veteran of the American Revolution.

"As a heritage group, we try to help the public to not forget what patriots endured during the Revolution as soldiers, and they fought for a cause – whatever they felt was in need to send the British back home," said Dugger, whose fifth great grandfather was an American militiaman from Wilkes County.

Cemetery...

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etery. Checks or cash can be taken to the Society at the Historic Courthouse in Blairsville, or you can mail in a donation to the: Union County Historical Society, P.O. Box 35, Blairsville, GA 30514.

"Your donations are tax deductible and will be very much appreciated," Paris said.

The clean up day will be Saturday, June 6, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., Paris said.

"We will have the chemical cleanup material and special glue for repairing some of the markers, which we will do strictly with the guidance of Evans. Blake Holman, the young man working on his Eagle Scout project, will have several boy scouts there to assist in the cleaning of the markers. Blake will bring the spray bottles, paintbrushes and other material necessary to apply the cleaners."