# Wall...from Page 1A

countless hours on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of America Blairsville Chapter 1101, which conceived of the idea as a new chapter just a year ago under the leadership of VVA 1101 President Mike Priven.

Others still helped to make The Wall a reality in Union County by coming together as a community at large in support of the cause, be it through donation of funds, resources or time, such as the Union County government, Union County Sheriff's Office, the Blairsville Home Depot, and everyday residents of the

But The Moving Wall is named such because it can never stay in one place for too long, as recognized in a closing ceremony that Monday,

Bill Honaker of Blairsville, who served two tours in Vietnam as part of the U.S. Army specializing in the recovery of fallen heroes from the battlefield, led the closing

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington and this Vietnam Moving Wall stand as symbols of America's honor and recognition of the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War," said Honaker. "As we take part in this closing ceremony, it's important to remember the purposes for bringing the Vietnam Moving Wall to Blairsville.

"First, we wanted this to be a Welcome Home for any

Vietnam-era Veteran who served and was never recognized for his or her service during the war. When our Vietnam Veterans came home, they were treated horribly. They were spit on, they were called terrible names. They were never recognized or thanked for coming home. They came home with physical, mental and emotional trauma that was not recognized or

Reciting the VVA motto, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,' Honaker called attention to the overwhelming support that Vietnam Veterans extend to each other today, as well as to the veterans of today's wars.

Honaker's moving remarks touched on his personal experiences in Vietnam and his understanding of the war all

these years later.
"I have been to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington and now this Moving Wall, and it's like opening a time capsule and being projected back to that distant land all over again," said Honaker. "The sense of camaraderie, brotherhood and loss is very real. I have touched the names of those that I remembered, and I have sensed the connection of so many more as I paused at the panels that represented those who died during my two tours

"I have wept, I have remembered and I have once again silently thanked them for their sacrifice. And I

Statement is on our audit and

also available in our office and

law, the county's Financial

Statement must be posted in

the Union County Courthouse

twice each year for a period of

not less than 30 days, and must

also be published in the local

newspaper, the North Georgia

County residents, the county's

Financial Statement is available

year-round in Commissioner

Paris' office, and is also made

available in the county's annual

audit in both the commissioner's

also closed a couple of bank

accounts that are no longer

resolution to close the bank

account with the Office of

the Treasury for the General

Obligation Bonds in 2004.

since those bonds have been paid off," said Commissioner

Fortunately for Union

Commissioner Paris

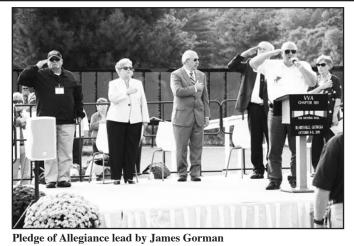
"I hereby approve this

News, once each year.

office and online.

According to state

online as part of our audit."





WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veteran Leon Davenport recognized at closing ceremony for Moiving Wall

promised that I would do my part to preserve that for which they fought and died. I have honored their memory, and I have once again connected to my need to make their sacrifice mean something. God's word in Jeremiah 29:11 has been my steadfast confidence and wisdom over the years, and it grows in understanding and truth more every day of my

For Honaker, speaking to his fellow Vietnam Veterans at that closing ceremony, they all came home from war for a

"I think that what we have to do now that we understand that we're home is we need to seek out and fulfill that purpose that God has for each one of us here, now," said Honaker. "I am older, and hopefully wiser – there are those that would debate that - but I've learned this much: death leaves a heartache that no one can heal, but love leaves a memory that no one can steal."

Like so many of the brave service members who live on in the spirit of memory upon the face of that reflective Vietnam memorial, The Moving Wall, too, had reached its time to move on.

And like those brave soldiers who never got to leave Vietnam in this life, The Moving Wall will never in this life leave the hearts of those who saw it in

VVA Chapter 1101 Chaplain Fred Freeman led the ceremony in an invocation and benediction, Senior Airman Rhiannon Clayton of Blairsville, who is currently stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, NC, sang the national anthem, and Vietnam Veteran Richard Dreher read the poem "Late Afternoon," by Jim Cain.

House of Prayer Church Ensemble sang an arrangement of "Mansions of the Lord," and as the North Georgia Honor Guard opened with the Posting of the Colors, they also retired the Colors following a playing of "Taps."

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them to use their innate talents and abilities to the fullest and to become responsible and contributing citizens," said Commissioner Paris. "Retired educators possess valuable knowledge, and they continue to be a major source of insight and direction for our state and our nation."

Also in the meeting, Peggy Deyton was named to the Union County Public Library Board for a three-year term to end June 30, 2018. Deyton will be replacing Debra Kendrick, and Commissioner Paris added that he appreciated Kendrick's years of work on the board.

"I am pleased to appoint Peggy Deyton, who was my executive assistant for many years and who is now retired

but willing to continue to help support the work of our public library," said Commissioner Paris. "Peggy also served on the committee when we rebuilt our library a few years ago."

Another part of the meeting dealt with a state law requiring the posting of the posting of Financial Statement per O.C.G.A. 36-1-6," said

Paris. "These were bonds that were sold to secure payment on Commissioner Paris. "This is the Union County Community an archaic law that is still on Center a few years ago." the state books. The Financial

The other closed bank account dealt with SPLOST III funds.

"I hereby approve this resolution to close the bank account with the Office of the Treasury for SPLOST III," said Commissioner Paris. "SPLOST III ended on April 30, 2015, and we will no longer be receiving money or revenue for SPLOST III."

In his Commissioner's Comments portion of the county meeting, Commissioner Paris discussed Meeks Park and the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall, which spent five days at Meeks Park and brought thousands of people to the county from all over the

He also talked about work that the Union County Road Department currently has underway, as they continue to patch and repair culverts to prepare for some additional paving prior to the end of the

#### county's Financial Statement. "I hereby approve the removal of the 30-day

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