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dom," Mayor Conley said.

U.S. Army veteran Alvin Dyer, who along with Honaker and Charley Hunter spearheaded the movement to rename School Street, said the day was one to remember.

"This is a good day for veterans," Dyer said. "I want to thank the county, the city, Mayor Conley and the City Council for their support of veterans and making this happen."

"Today, if you are a veteran, you have a road named after you," Dyer said. "It's a glorious day."

It was a big day for

Honaker, who got a surprise at the Veterans Dinner at the Blairsville Civic Center a little later in the day.

Honaker received the Commander's Award, presented annually to a worthy veteran who has demonstrated outstanding contributions in the community. Commanders of the VFW, American Legion, and DAV nominate and vote on candidates to determine to who this prestigious award will be presented. This year was extremely difficult due to all of the qualified candidates, Veterans Affairs Director Bob Spaulding said.

Charlie Hunter, Com-

mander of VFW Richard Hoibraten and Tom Dykstra joined Spaulding on stage to present the award to Honaker.

"I'm not usually at a loss for words," Honaker said. "This honor is extremely humbling."

"I had no idea that I was even in the running, especially when I look out here and see so many people who are so active in many different ways," Honaker said. "There are so many great people in this community who are involved in helping veterans and helping veterans' causes and the community. To be selected for this is truly an honor."

"This is a great community that supports its veterans," Honaker said. "That's obvious after the recent fund raising event for the Iraq War Memorial."

"This community went above and beyond what was asked of them and raised enough money for the Afghanistan Memorial - it's already paid for," he said. "We look forward to being able to dedicate that, hopefully in the very near future, as soon as that war is declared over. It's truly a privilege to live in a community that honors its veterans. Not every community is like that."



It was a Veterans Day to remember on Monday as a street was dedicated to veterans, a war monument was unveiled and the county's hardest working veteran was recognized. Photos/Todd Forrest

Send off party for local musicians includes live band

By Janice Boling
NGN Writer / Photographer

Brothers Nathaniel and Nickolas Payne, member of local rock band Mid Range, recently played at their own send off party! The band cranked up and rocked Jones Creek from one end to the other. Guests danced, sang along to their favorite songs, and enjoyed a fun Saturday night in the mountains!

Nathan and Nick are headed to Hollywood, CA where they have been accepted into the renowned Musician's Institute of Hollywood. Nathan and Nick are both exceptional musicians with Nathan playing bass guitar and saxophone, while Nick prefers lead guitar (and vocals).

Nathan's and Nick's parents are Alice and Melvin Payne. Alice is going with the guys for a couple of weeks to help the boys find an apartment and get settled in. She says, "We are going to stay in a Comfort Inn on Sunset Strip the first few nights. If we're going to experience a culture shock, we just as well go all

the way!" Melvin and youngest son Noah (here in Blairsville) will have to fend for themselves the next few weeks.

The send off party was also a celebration for Brian Payne's 54th birthday. Friends, family, and guests enjoyed Kirtley hospitality with good food and fellowship.

Other Mid Range band members include Melvin Payne on keyboard, Charlie Ross (and Cody Spiva) taking turns on drums. They play original pieces by Nick Payne and cover songs including Clapton, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Allman Brothers, and just about anything the crowd requested (except Happy Birthday). Nathan says, "We don't do Happy Birthday for anyone."

Recent graduates of UCHS, the boys have been playing since their early teens. Nathan is now 18 and Nick is



Mid Range performs for large gathering

17. Their dad, Melvin Payne is also an accomplished musician. He has played with several local bands throughout the years including Desert Rain, High Noon, and Crosswinds.

Nathan, Nick and their parents would like to thank everyone at the party that contributed to their scholarship fund especially Dana and Jason Thompson of Thompson Transport and friend and distant cousin Brian Payne.

Congratulations Nathan and Nick! We wish you the best and send blessings your way. May the good Lord look over you and protect you in your journeys. NGNov14.221)CA