

# WGTH ISSUES & PROGRAMS

## FOURTH QUARTER 2021

### OCTOBER – DECEMBER

#### HONORING OUR VETERANS

It is every community's duty and privilege to honor those that have, sacrificially, served their country in order to preserve freedom in the United States and internationally. Leaving home and family is a major demonstration of dedication, but to be willing to put oneself in harm's way for a greater cause is deserving of recognition and deep gratitude. Furthermore, patriotism is enhanced when respect and commendation are exhibited toward those that have been committed to protecting and defending.

Program: Infobytes inviting veteran participation and announcing local community activities that have been organized for the purpose of honoring veterans

Guest: Jerry McReynolds, spokesperson for the Town of Tazewell's annual celebration to honor veterans

Dates/Times: November 2 – 7, 2021 @ various times throughout the day

Duration: 50 seconds (x 30)

Guest: Jerry Gilbert, Town of Richlands Chief of Police and spokesperson for the Town of Richlands' annual celebration honoring veterans

Dates/Times: October 30 – November 4, 2021 @ various times throughout the day

Duration: 2 minutes 25 seconds (x 21)

Both Jerry McReynolds, on behalf of the Town of Tazewell, and Jerry Gilbert, on behalf of the Town of Richlands, welcomed all area veterans and their families to their respective town celebrations. Also, everyone from the area was invited to participate in order to show support and gratitude for the veterans' services to the country and for the preservation of freedom the veterans' dedication maintained. Each gentleman gave specific, detailed information about their particular event.

Program: Remote broadcast of the Richlands Veterans Day Ceremony (along with interviews prior to and following the ceremony)

Date/Time: November 4, 2021, beginning at, approximately 5:30 pm with patriotic music prior to a 6 pm candlelight vigil and ceremony

Duration: The actual ceremony was, approximately, a half hour and the interviews were brief – from about 2 to 3 minutes each

The Town of Richlands desired to have a nice ceremony for veterans while maintaining the safety of those in attendance and observing COVID protocol. Therefore, it was decided ahead of time that the ceremony would be held outside in the parking lot behind the Richlands Police Department Complex. The music and ceremony were broadcast on the air, as well as, several interviews that took place prior to and after the ceremony.

Guests: The Richlands High School Brass Ensemble, under the direction of Bruce Miller (RHS Band Director), played a selection of patriotic music representing and saluting the various branches of the military.

Jim Boyd, distinguished citizen of Richlands and retired Marine, participated in a brief interview regarding veteran recognition at the beginning.

Pete Vance, distinguished citizen and active promoter of veterans' activities in the community spoke, briefly, prior to the acknowledgement of the Wall of Fallen Warriors and the POW/MIA Wall.

The Richlands Police Department Honor Guard placed a memorial wreath at the Veterans Memorial during the candlelight vigil.

Commander Mike Hickman and the VFW Casey-Shortt Post 9640 gave tribute with a 21 Gun Salute.

Mack Vandyke played "Taps."

Senior Trooper Gavin W. Scott, with the Virginia State Police, played a stirring rendition of "Amazing Grace" while solemnly and deliberately crossing in front of the stage area in front of the veterans.

The AFJROTC 961 Richlands High School Color Guard presented the Colors. Mike Hickman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jerry Gilbert, Chief of Police for the Town of Richlands, was the Master of Ceremonies and introduced the speaker...

Mike Brown, Chief of Police for the Town of Cedar Bluff (neighboring community) and an Air Force combat veteran, was the keynote speaker.

Rod Cury, Mayor of the Town of Richlands, gave a brief address.

The Jubalaires, a popular local gospel quartet, sang several patriotic songs.

Lt. Greg Reynolds, from the Richlands Police Department and coordinator of the event, presented a slide presentation of local military veterans... both living and deceased. (An announcement was made that this was taking place.)

Live interviews followed with:

Pastor Doug Allen (had opened with prayer) talked about the appreciation veterans should be shown and the thanksgiving that should be made for the Lord's protection over veterans.

Josh Hess, a well-respected young man from the community and recent law school grad, represented his family in thanking all area veterans and explaining that his family considered it a privilege to be able to sponsor takeout meals for the veterans and their families. (In non-COVID years, they have sponsored a nice, sit down, hot meal inside the police department complex.) Josh acknowledged that the family does this in memory of Josh's brother, Justin.

Police Chief, Jerry Gilbert, thanked Lt. Greg Reynolds and all the police department employees and all the others involved with making the ceremony so special. He thanked everyone for coming out to support our local veterans.

#### **RECRUITMENT FOR THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE CORPS' 246<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The Marine Corps has a proud history of serving as an elite branch of military defense for the United States since 1775. Those who have earned the title of Marine, know how difficult the training and expectations are. No wonder, Marines have earned so much respect from those outside and enjoy such camaraderie from inside the ranks.

The Marine Corps League was organized to support the Marine Corps, to care for Marines and their families, and to promote "patriotic volunteerism." There are more than a thousand detachments across the country. However, for various reasons, the number of members in the detachments can fluctuate (illness or death, relocation, etc.). From time to time, it is necessary to recruit new members in order for a particular detachment to remain viable.

Guest: Donal (Don) Meadows, Marine Veteran

Program: Prerecorded interview

Date/Times: November 10, 2021 @ 11:32 am and 7:06 pm

Duration: 13 minutes 23 seconds

Program: Two newsbytes

Date/Time/Duration: November 10, 2021 @ 7:39 am; 36.5 seconds

Subject: "Happy Birthday, Marine!" greeting

Date/Time/Duration: November 10, 2021 @ 8:41 am; 1 minute 15 seconds

Subject: Information about the Marine Corps League 980/Recruiting

Marine Corps League 980 was formed on June 26, 1997. In order for a detachment to maintain its existence, there must be a certain number of members. Due to a variety of reasons, Marine Corps League 980, has had several members that no longer can participate and their number is causing some concern. Because the 246<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps is November 10, 2021, it was considered strategic to make the recruitment request coincide with the birthday.

Don Meadows used the interview opportunity to both celebrate the Marine Corps 246<sup>th</sup> Birthday and to share information about the Marine Corps League, in general, and about the Marine Corps League 980... the local detachment. He explained that Marines have a heart to serve others, and that desire continues even after active duty. The local detachment has a lunchtime meeting once a month. Some of the projects in which the local detachment is involved include: funding a scholarship to the local community college, making donations to a veterans and spouses organization, putting on a Marine Corps dinner, and serving at an information booth about the Marine Corps and Marine Corps League at the annual Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival.

## IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

Election laws and procedures are meant, in general, to simplify the election process in order to make it as easy as possible for voters to vote. However, there have been so many changes over the past several years that some voters get confused about current procedures and/or misunderstand the reasoning behind certain laws and procedures. With the current sensitivity to voting issues, having well-informed voters could help make for greater peace of mind and voter contentment... especially for those that vote in person at their precinct on Election Day.

Occasionally, in an effort to: 1) make access to the voting precinct as easy as possible (especially for those with physical challenges, such as ambulatory issues), 2) provide a safe and convenient location for voters and precinct workers, and 3) allow for sufficient parking... there must be a precinct relocation. Knowing in advance that a precinct has been moved and knowing where it is now can be most helpful on Election Day. Even though the Office of Voter Registration makes an attempt to inform voters by mail of any changes, sometimes voters do not read, do not receive, or do not remember what was said in their letter regarding their precinct relocation.

Program: Prerecorded newsbytes

Guest: Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County

Dates/Times/Subject/Duration:

October 29, 2021 @ 7:37 am & 8:43 am; Jewell Ridge precinct location change; 42 seconds

October 30, 2021 @ 8:46 am; Early voting deadline today; 45 seconds

October 31, 2021 @ 8:46 am and November 1, 2021 @ 7:41 am; ID's are still required, but it doesn't have to be a photo ID; 36 seconds

November 2, 2021 @ 7:36 am; Cedar Bluff precinct relocation; 22 seconds

Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County, prerecorded five separate news bytes to be used adjacent to local news broadcasts prior to the November Election. Five topics were chosen that had the potential to arise as problems as early voting ended and in person (at the polls) voting was about to take place. Brian clearly and succinctly explained the necessary information regarding each topic. His information regarding the relocation of the Cedar Bluff and the Jewell Ridge precincts included the physical addresses of each new location and a description of how to get to them if folks were unfamiliar with the territory.

## PROMOTING LOCAL TOURISM & SEASONAL EVENTS

Tourism is increasing in its importance as a local industry... especially since COVID forced people outdoors and to more open venues. The positive impact of these changes, aside from the obvious healthy benefits of fresh air and exercise, has shown in a resurgence of interest in locals enjoying local tourist spots along with out-of-towners. The economy, at least in part, has rebounded with improved local participation. However, promotion of events is even more essential than ever to keep things moving in a positive direction. High energy, motivated community leaders with passion for their communities are generating creative ideas, but folks must be made aware of the events and their appetites whetted for the great times that await them.

Program: Prerecorded infobytes regarding local seasonal events that highlight some of the area's top tourist spots while providing special entertainment and Christmas shopping opportunities

Guest: Irma Mitchell, Chairperson for Tazewell Today (a community organization created for the purpose of improving the Town of Tazewell and, particularly, the Main Street area)

Dates/Times/Duration: November 29 – December 3, 2021; ran 31 times at various times throughout the day; 1 minute 26 seconds

Irma Mitchell, chairperson for Tazewell Today, invited listeners to participate in three different activities in the charming Main Street area of the Town of Tazewell. She gave specifics regarding the Christmas parade, the Christmas Market on Main Street, and the community tree lighting.

Guest: Cynthia Farmer, Executive Director of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park in Tazewell

Dates/Times/Duration: November 29 – December 3, 2021; ran 31 times at various times throughout the day; 1 minute 35 seconds

Cynthia Farmer, executive director of the Historic Crab Orchard Museum and Pioneer Park, invited listeners to the annual “Frontier Christmas.” Cynthia explained that admission is free with the donation of a canned good for “A Child Shall Lead Them Food Pantry” in Tazewell. This year’s celebration was packed with exciting plans and numerous opportunities to enjoy caroling with “pioneers” and “pioneer families” in the various cabins on the grounds. According to Cynthia, hot apple cider, homemade cookies, craft demonstrations with the opportunity to participate, the blacksmith and other costumed interpreters would give visitors a festive frontier experience.

## REVIVING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY'S DESIRE TO WITNESS AND TO SERVE OTHERS

From time to time, even the Christian community needs to be reminded that we are here to share the gospel and to serve others. Complacency and our own comfort, sometimes, seem more important to us than fulfilling the purpose the Lord has for us. This COVID season has, certainly, shown us that there are plenty of people that need our love, our physical resources, and some spiritual encouragement. If the Christian community worked together as one body, imagine the impact.

Program: Prerecorded interview

Guests: Reverend Gordon McBride, pastor of the Richlands First United Methodist Church, and Reverend Jay Ferguson, pastor of the Bluefield Virginia First United Methodist Church

Dates/Times/Duration: November 12, 2021 @ 11:30 am, and November 13, 2021 @ 6:06 pm; 28 minutes and 22 seconds

In the interview with Reverend Gordon McBride of the Richlands First United Methodist Church and Reverend Jay Ferguson of the Bluefield Virginia First United Methodist Church, the upcoming special event, "Refresh Your Soul," was the focus of the discussion. Reverend McBride shared that he has community-minded members that were concerned about the complacency in their own church and in their lives. Before he came to be their pastor, they had already started making plans for a transforming revival that would result in their commitment to share the gospel more freely throughout the community and make them more sensitive to the needs of others. They desired to become more intentional about impacting lives for the Lord.

Reverend McBride and his guest speaker, Reverend Ferguson, shared the format for the event that would begin on a Sunday morning. There would be a power point presentation and a question and answer session after a light supper on the following Wednesday evening.