

Abercrombie...from Page 1A

honors of a public safety funeral.

Towns County Fire & Rescue came out with its ladder truck to hang an American flag over the westbound lane of Georgia 515, under which Abercrombie's nearly two-mile procession drove on its way to her final resting place.

Union County Sheriff's Deputies, Blairsville Police Officers, Union County Firefighters, Union General EMS, the U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and others lined the road and saluted as Abercrombie passed by, and the Life Force medical helicopter flew in to hover low over the procession.

Upon reaching

Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery, where she was interred alongside her late husband Jimmy Abercrombie, fellow Union County first responders conducted the Last Call Ceremony.

One by one, the sheriff's office, police department, fire department and EMS called in to Dispatch 710 – Abercrombie's badge number – as silence answered back from the dispatch center.

Union County E-911 Dispatcher David Walker then read a tribute to Abercrombie over the radio:

"Dispatcher Brenda Abercrombie, Badge No. 710, End of Watch March 14, 2017. You have completed your mission here. You have been

a good friend to all. We will remember your friendship, compassion for others, and your calming voice.

"You have fought a good fight, and now it has finished its course. Now it is time for you to rest."

Following a moment of silence, Walker continued:

"Dispatcher Brenda Abercrombie, thank you for your 22 years of service to Union County. May you rest in peace knowing your strength lives on in your children, and your honor lives on in all of us."

Wayne Roshaven of the North Georgia Honor Guard then played taps, after which the fire department started up the well-known Fed Q fire siren for Abercrombie.

Before departing, public safety first responders in attendance lined up to salute, then touch Abercrombie's coffin prior to her burial, a final embrace for a woman who will be remembered for her smile, her love of food and black coffee, and so much more.

"She was a very compassionate, loving, caring person," said Lt. Millie Baxter.

Baxter oversees the daily operations of Union County 911, and she has worked with Abercrombie for 20 years, going back to when Towns and Union counties shared a dispatch center.

"She had the biggest heart of anyone I've ever met," said Baxter. "She was amazing, someone that you never hear anything negative about. Everyone that has ever met her has been touched by her."

"She was the calm in the storm. When things would get chaotic, Brenda was the calm across the radio that kept everyone together."

Abercrombie continued to do her job right up to the night before her transplant surgery in November, and she had every intention of going back to work once her recovery was complete.



Dozens of law enforcement personnel from various agencies lined the procession route near where the flag flew for Abercrombie.



The Life Force medical helicopter hovered low over Georgia 515, paying respect to Abercrombie for her 22 years of service to public safety

The morning after Abercrombie's funeral, Baxter reported seeing a rainbow over the dispatch center, which perhaps could be interpreted as one last smile from Abercrombie.

Abercrombie was preceded in death by her late husband Jimmy Lynn Abercrombie, and survived by daughter April Seabolt, son Aaron Abercrombie, and grandchildren Jaycee Seabolt,

Peyton Seabolt and Hayden Abercrombie.

The family has requested donations be made to the Georgia Transplant Association in memory of Abercrombie.

Air Methods...from Page 1A

membership starting June 1.

When a resident requires an air medical transport and receives one through Air Methods, the first thing that happens is personal insurance pays toward the cost of the flight. However, any cost that's not covered by insurance will be covered under the Air Methods membership, which usually amounts to savings of many thousands of dollars.

For people who don't have personal insurance, the entire cost of the medical flight is covered by the Air Methods membership.

And while residents may still receive a bill after using the service, they will not be held responsible to pay out of pocket for that remaining balance.

"The way this plan works for the county is, last year it was people who signed up in the county were covered," said Moody. "This year we did a full municipality membership, which means that anytime anyone is flown, they will get a bill."

"However, when they receive a bill, all they have to do is contact the billing office, which the information on that will be in the packet that they get in the mail, and just prove their residency is in either Union County or Towns County and they will be covered."

"That's the difference between this year and last year."

The multimillion dollar helicopter came to Union General last May and has since saved dozens of lives by transporting patients in record time.

According to Moody, there have been multiple cardiac transfers from Union General to Northeast Georgia Medical Center's catheterization laboratory, or cath lab, in approximately 68 minutes – that's the time from when a

patient first walks into Union General to when they're on a table in Northeast Georgia with a procedure being performed.

With such amazing results, and so many lives saved, Union General decided to approach the county about bringing this service to the public as a countywide benefit.

"The membership thing, for us, is just another great way for us to be able to reach out to the community and provide this wonderful added benefit," said Chance Owen, Air Methods Southeastern Regional Business Manager. "A lot of people are hesitant about transports and

air medical transports because they're afraid of what the bill is going to look like. So, what this does, it allows for a great way to be able to alleviate that pressure off of the patient once they receive the bill."

"You guys are really blessed to have this helicopter in your county to be able to service Union and Towns. Eighty-two million Americans live in rural America, so they're without access to a level 1 or level 2 trauma centers."

For more information about Air Methods and in-flight services, visit www.airmethods.com.

SMART Recovery program

SMART Recovery (Self-Management And Recovery Training) helps individuals gain independence from addiction (substances or activities), by providing an educational and supporting environment based on SMART Recovery 4 – Point Program.

We teach self-empowerment for recovery from addiction, drug abuse, alcoholism, and alcohol abuse, by teaching how to change self-defeating thinking, emotions, and actions; and to work towards long-term satisfactions and quality of life.

For more information call 706-994-3692; 76 Hunt Martin Street, Blairsville, GA.