

**STEMI**...from Page 1A



Union County E-911 Dispatchers, L-R: Kasey Rafter, Carrie King, Holley Kemp, Lynn Powell, Rebecca Holcombe, Dawna Townsend, Ashley Churchill, Heidi Morris, Lt. Millie Baxter and 911 Director David Dyer. Not pictured: Mary King, Amanda Craig and Amber Baltzell.

Photo by Mark Smith

ambulance as well, adding that paramedics could begin treatment right there at her house.

Paramedics Will Bannister and Pat Schmidt arrived shortly thereafter and immediately determined that Floyd was having an especially serious type of heart attack known as a STEMI.

They immediately began treating Floyd right there in his driveway, and Union County Fire Department first responders Dustin Lee and Travis Henry were also on the scene assisting.

Powell called two medical helicopter transport services, but because of the stormy weather that night, neither service was able to fly. So, Bannister and Schmidt drove Floyd over Blood Mountain to Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

Floyd became unresponsive during the ambulance ride over the mountain to Gainesville.

The doctors at Northeast Georgia Medical found that Floyd had two main heart arteries completely blocked and a third about 78% blocked, requiring the placement of stents in the two blocked arteries that night, followed by a stent in the third artery a few days later.

After waiting for a while at the hospital, Loretta said the doctor came out and said, "We've done all we can do. It's very, very grave at this point. He can't take any more. We can't do any more. It's in God's hands."

Added the doctor, "You can thank the paramedics. I was here, but the paramedics saved his life."

Union County Fire Chief and EMA Director David Dyer said Northeast Georgia Medical hosts a STEMI Summit annually, which showcases their most notable cardiac cases.

"At this Summit, they go over the latest and greatest the Northeast Georgia Medical Center is doing for cardiac issues and problems," said Dyer. "They've been doing it for 10 or 15 years, and it's for the entire North Georgia Region. It's a world-renowned kind of thing."

Floyd's case was one of three they picked out of all

the cardiac cases they had in 2018. Floyd and Loretta Petty, Powell, Bannister, Schmidt, the first responders, doctors, nurses, and everyone who helped save Floyd's life on that stormy night were invited to the 2019 summit in Gainesville recently.

They were even portrayed in a professionally created video reenactment of the event.

In other E-911 news, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and 911 Director Dyer headed over to the E-911 Dispatch Center on Thursday, April 11, to honor all of those who work to help Union County residents in an emergency.

Representatives from Union General EMS, 911 Dispatch, the Blairsville Police Department, and the Union County Sheriff's Office, as well as Floyd and Loretta Petty, were also in attendance.

Paris addressed the gathering with a proclamation honoring all Union County emergency personnel for National Public Safety and Telecommunications Week, April 14 through April 20.

Following brief remarks by Conley and comments from each of the representatives of Union County's emergency services, everyone was treated to a barbecue plate courtesy of Jim's Smokin' Que.

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