

Dixon

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"I couldn't see her because she was behind a row of trees, and I was wondering where it was coming from," said Dixon. "Then I saw something white that just popped out into the road."

He realized right away that what had tumbled into the road was a woman being viciously attacked by a dog.

Dixon immediately jumped out of his truck and took off running toward the bloody scene, and as he got closer, he realized it was not one, but two dogs.

"I got 15 yards from her or so, maybe 10, and the female dog that had a hold of her, she released and headed towards me," said Dixon. "All I had was my feet, and I'm kicking and kicking and kicking, and after I kicked her six or eight times, the male finally released the lady and she headed at me, too."

Continued Dixon: "Somehow - the good Lord was on my side - I got the dogs on one side of me and the lady on the other side of me, and was just keeping them from getting her and me."

The dogs took turns attacking, one after the other, and he in turn kicked each dog into submission while the other rested between attacks.

As he fought the dogs in the street, standing between them and the hurt woman, Dixon noticed a man in a red shirt looking on from the porch of the house he was facing while keeping the dogs at bay.

Dixon would soon find out that the man in the red shirt was the owner of the two pit bulls he was fighting, but at the time, he was hoping that the stranger would come to their aid.

"He let me fight these dogs for three or four minutes," said Dixon. "I was almost out of breath when he called for



Dixon received the Monaweck Award from his employer for his uncommon act of valor.

them a single time, and they turned around and ran towards the house."

A car had stopped nearby, its occupants honking and yelling at the dogs as they first mauled Caren Senter and then attacked Dixon, and someone in the car called 911 as Dixon protected the bleeding woman from further harm.

The police arrived about a minute after the attack ended, and an ambulance not long after that. A paramedic

told Dixon at the scene that had he arrived even a minute later at Senter's side, she would not have made it through the attack.

Ask Caren Senter the definition of a hero today, and she'll surely reply with two words - Nate Dixon.

As she recovered from her wounds, which required nearly 60 stitches, Senter wrote letters expressing what had happened to Dixon's boss at Midwest Powerline and to IBEW, as well as to Greenville's mayor and police chief.

Dixon and his family attended what he thought was a dinner with Senter on Tuesday, Aug. 1, only to find out that the dinner was a surprise reception in his honor.

That evening, Dixon

received the Louie Monaweck Award for Valor from his employer, named after the founder of Midwest Powerline, and those in attendance included representatives of IBEW, the Greenville City Council and Police Department, a local television news crew and others.

"It's pretty crazy," said Dixon. "I feel like anybody else would have done the same thing. I feel very undeserving of all the attention."

Not many people find their altruism tested in the way Dixon did on June 17, but as he put it, he felt he had only one course of action available to him.

"I saw someone in a terrible bind, and I couldn't just watch, I had to help," said Dixon.

His gut reaction to run toward instead of away from danger that day saved a stranger's life, and now, Dixon and Senter are glad to call each other friends.

Senter had been out walking her usual route that day when the dogs, normally penned in the front yard of their owner's home, attacked.

The pit bulls have since been euthanized, and their owner was jailed for 30 days because of the attack.

Greenville Police Chief Ken Miller sent Dixon a letter of appreciation after the incident, thanking him for his courageous deed.

"Had you not intervened and ended the vicious attack upon Ms. Senter, I fear what the potential outcome would have been," said Chief Miller. "In listening to officer accounts, I know and understand that you put your safety aside to help someone else - an act deserving of our thanks and recognition."

"Thank you again for your service to our community."

Dixon is a family man married to Jenni Dixon, with one daughter having already graduated Union County High and three others currently attending.

For safety tips involving run-ins with unfamiliar dogs, visit the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.

Walker

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met through work was from Blairsville and she called and invited us to come spend the weekend up here. So, we came up here and fell in love. When we got back home, we immediately put our house on the market and moved up here.

"It's wonderful up here. It's a wonderful place to live."

Once Walker and her husband made it to Union County, it did not take long before Walker felt an itch to get involved in the community. Soon enough, Walker found herself volunteering for the historical society events and now the museum.

"I saw an article in the paper saying that they were recruiting for volunteers," said Walker. "I thought, well that will be something to do to get me out of the house. So, I went to the meeting and signed up to start working."

"When I first started working, I was working at the Mock House. Then somehow I got moved to the museum."

Each year the historical society hosts festivals and parades and music events, always offering something for people in the community to do downtown as well as promoting the museum and history of the area. Of all the festivals and events, Walker said she most enjoys the people.

According to Walker, no matter the event, the

people she meets through her volunteer work continue to bring happiness into her life through the stories they tell, the smiles they share and the good conversation they bring.

"I love meeting all of the nice people," said Walker. "There are so many nice people that come into the museum and to the events. And it's funny how you'll start talking to people and find out that you have more in common than you realize."

"I grew up near Lake Michigan in Wisconsin and we have a Coast Guard station there. Well, after Memorial Day, we have a military display here at the museum. This couple came in and asked if we had any Coast Guard uniforms."

"Then the woman said that her son was in the Coast Guard and that he was stationed in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. My hometown."

"It's really such a small world."

Walker can be found sitting behind the front desk of the Union County Historical Courthouse every Monday morning with a big smile on her face, ready to share local history and more with all who walk through those big double doors.

"I still just can't believe it," said Walker. "I love sitting here and talking to people. I can't think of a better place to be volunteering my time."

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