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A war remembered

People gather at Moving Wall to honor Vietnam War dead

By SHELBY G. SPIRES
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Jerry Giffin couldn't hold back his floodwaters through a 6y by 8y by 10y and a 12y by 12y from Moody Air Force Base, a 21 gun salute by the Moody Honor Guard and the placing of 11 commemorative wreaths along the wall by various veteran, civic and military organizations.

The ceremony was especially significant to Valdosta Mayor Jimmy Rainwater, he said. "A friend of mine — Harold Hurdon — who I grew up with, his name is on that wall," he said. "I have been to Washington D.C. nine times, and every time I go, I visit the Wall up there. Every time I go I get a rubbing of his name."

People take slips of paper, place them against the Wall and rub graphite across them in order to transfer the image of the name. The same process can be done with the Moving Wall.

Rainwater said The Moving Wall's visit to Valdosta is a significant event in the city's history.

"This pays tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price," Rainwater said. "It is an honor for Valdosta to be hosting this event, and it is an opportunity for our citizens to come here and pay tribute to those people on the memorial."

The memorial honors all those who have fought for freedom, said Col. Wayne Edwards, 347 Support Group Commander.

"This splendid memorial remembers the dead from Vietnam, and it also honors all veterans from the past, present and the future," said Edwards.

The Moving Wall will be open for viewing 24 hours a day at American Legion Post 13, located off Country Club Road, until sundown on March 21. The monument was brought to Valdosta through the efforts of the Winnerville Friends of the Moving Wall, a veteran, civic and military association.

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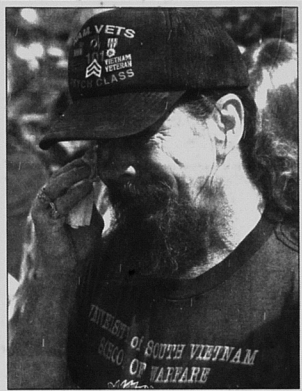
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Jerry Giffin, a Vietnam veteran with the 101st Airborne during 1969-70, wipes tears away during Tom Ressler's reading "Freedom Is Not Free" during the opening ceremonies for the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall at the American Legions Recreation Center on Country Club Road Wednesday morning. — Times Photo by Paul Levy

Agents: Echoes sheriff lied

By ALLISON AILER
Times Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Defense attorneys Wednesday attacked the testimony of state law enforcement agents' about conversations regarding drug trafficking they had with Echols County Sheriff Charles Carter.

The defense's efforts came on the second day of Carter's federal perjury trial in U.S. District Court. Carter is accused of perjury during the federal drug trial of an Echols County man last year.

Defense Attorney Clyde Taylor emphasized no agents were present during meetings between Carter and Daniel Lavon Hughes, a convicted drug trafficker. The prosecution maintains that Hughes admitted to Carter that he was a drug dealer, but that during Hughes' trial last year, Carter denied Hughes ever told him that he was dealing drugs.

Taylor also asked why state agents were never used a recording device when interviewing Carter about drug information.

The defense also maintained testimony and reports by Trish Grina, a former South Georgia Drug Task Force agent and Ronnie Thompson, the FBI special agent in charge of the Task Force, during the Hughes trial conflict with testimony they are now making.

Grina testified she was a liaison between the Task Force and Echols County officers. She said she met weekly with Carter to discuss drug activity in Echols County.

She said Carter told her on Dec. 4, 1991, that Hughes was dealing marijuana in a big way, and never dealing with less than large quantities.

She said she took notes as Carter told her Hughes had purchased a condo and several farms in the area with drug money. When she returned to her office, she transferred the notes to a task force report form, which was later reviewed by Echols County.

She testified that on one occasion she organized the sheriff to an arson scene.

"Directly across" from the fire, she said, was a parked car in front of an abandoned building. When she and Carter arrived, the man left driving south on Bethel Church Road. A few minutes later, she said, Hughes pulled up in a truck in front of the same building.

Grina testified she walked to the truck and saw the man whose name number as the sheriff talked to Hughes.

During a cross examination, Taylor pointed out an incorrect date line on Grina's report and two inaccuracies in her testimony.

He submitted photos of the arson scene and the abandoned building as evidence. In the photos, the building was not directly across from the arson scene as she testified. The building was diagonally across from the arson scene.

Grina replies her report she did not intend "directly" to mean across, but to distract the jury, she implied the building could be seen from the arson site.

Taylor then attacked the accuracy of Grina's testimony that she

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Volunteers 'proud' to guard memorial

By SHELBY G. SPIRES
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Linda Setser doesn't remember the Vietnam war — she wasn't born until 1974, one year before its end.

Memories or not, Setser appreciates the veterans of the war enough to volunteer her time to help out at The Moving Wall which is in Valdosta for the next week.

Setser is president of Valdosta State Sorority Zeta Tau Alpha and her sorority sisters volunteered to come up to the wall's location on Country Club Road and stuff envelopes, prepare rubbing paper, graphite sticks and keep other volunteers company. "We'll be here in three-hour shifts from 9 p.m. through midnight for most of the week," she said.

"This is a very important event for the area," Setser said. "The names on the wall are real people who gave their lives. It's an enormous, very emotional thing for a lot of people, and that doesn't really get to you until you go out and see all those names on the wall. Then you come to realize the point of what happened."

Setser and other volunteers stayed at the site to make sure no one tampered with the memorial.

"We're here basically to guard The Moving Wall," said Senior Airman Randy Allen, who works at the Electronic Counter Measures shop at Moody. "It's unfortunate, but a number of people will try to steal sections of the wall that may have the names of a relative on it."

Allen said he didn't mind staying near the memorial late at night. "It makes me feel good that this memorial is here to honor our veterans," he said. "I want to support all those who were the uniform before me."

Representatives Tim Golden, Jay Shaw and Henry Heaves supported the tax cut plan in the House, arguing it represented a good first step in reducing taxes.

Despite the unanimous vote in the House, a number of Republican legislators pointed out the bill didn't go far enough.

Rep. Ken Kucinik (R-Maryland), said after the initial goodwill generated by the thought of a tax cut faded, the public would realize the bill didn't go far enough.

"This is being done with great fanfare but the elderly pay little if any school taxes in this bill people 65-69 are left out in the cold, so are young marrieds who don't own their own home."

See TAX, Page 2-A

Rick Harrell watches his father Pat Harrell copy names of friends from the wall Wednesday morning after the ceremonies. Harrell served in Vietnam from 1966 until January 1968 with the Marines' Second Force Recon. — Times Photo by Paul Levy

Senate shoots down House tax package

By BRIAN LAWSON
Times Staff Writer

ATLANTA — The Georgia House unanimously approved the largest tax cut in the state's history, but the state Senate unanimously rejected the plan late Wednesday.

Negotiations on the bill proposal are expected to continue even though the 1995 Legislative session ends Friday.

The estimated \$250 million tax cut approved by the House provides a state income tax credit to help taxpayers offset 10 percent of the local educational property tax rate beginning in January 1996. The tax credit is capped at \$3,000.

House Majority Leader Larry Walker (D-Perry) said the plan, "borders on being brilliant."

"This gives people what they want, property tax relief," Walker said on the floor of the House.

Rut L. Governor Pierre Howard, who presides over the Senate, expressed concern the plan would primarily benefit larger land owners who pay larger property taxes. The problem appeared solved when the cap, which had been discussed at a \$5,000 limit was reduced.

In calling for a rejection of the House version, Sen. Johnny Jackson (R-Marietta) pointed out that a number of metro Atlanta com-

munities exempt senior citizens from school property tax payments and he argued the bill would do nothing for them.

Senator Harold Ragan (D-Cairo) said tax relief is welcome but he objected to the idea of waiting until the final 48 hours of the legislative session to vote on such a bill.

"We've had the best of the legislature studying the issue of taxation for three years," Ragan said. "They did a really thoughtful report and then we throw something on the phone (a phone poll which showed a number of citizens favor property tax relief) and we try to do something in the final two days."

Good morning!

Valdosta will have cloudy skies with a high in the mid 70s. The chance of rain will be 70 percent. Tonight will be mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Complete weather details on Page 2-A.

Lottery

WEDNESDAY'S NUMBERS

Georgia Lottery

Cash 3 1-7-6

Florida Lottery

Cash 3 9-8-6

Play 4 3-1-5-0

Fantasy 5 24-9-7-5-14

A thought

"If you wish the sympathy of broad masses, then you must tell them the crudest and most stupid things." — Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf

In the news

American Airlines overhauled

DALLAS — AMR Corp., the parent of American Airlines, announced 900 layoffs Wednesday and named a new president to head the country's second largest air carrier.

The move to trim nearly 20 percent from its head-quarters staff of 3,000 in Fort Worth is expected to save the struggling company \$93 million a year.

The company has already slashed routes, operations and capital spending, furloughed 650 pilots and cut its fleet.

Donald J. Carty, 48, was named president of American Airlines, replacing L. Crandall, who will stay on as chairman, president and chief executive of AMR, and chairman and chief executive of American.

— The Associated F.

Man clawed by polar bear

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A psychiatric patient on a field trip to the zoo Wednesday leaped into a polar bear's pit and was clawed by the 700-pound beast.

The 28-year-old man was lifted to safety by zookeepers and treated for minor injuries at a hospital.

"I understand there were claw marks on his chest," said Mimi Ortolano, executive director of the Buffalo Zoo.

The man climbed a waist-high fence and jumped into the zoo's bear pit, zoo officials said.

The man, identified as Robert D. Bono, said Deputy Police Commissioner Roberto Dico.

As armed zookeepers stood by, other workers threw a net into the pit to distract the bear, then lowered a cage and hoisted the man to safety.

The bear went right after him, but he not food, like wanted to play," said a zoo visitor, Jon Gallo.

— The Associated Press

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