

# Healthcare debate will not end soon

If you're sick and tired of all the shouting and bickering about healthcare reform, I've got some bad news for you.

The issue will continue dominating the news for the next several weeks as Congress tries to decide which version of a healthcare reform bill it will finally adopt.

Even if something does pass and is signed by President Barack Obama before the end of the year, rest assured that healthcare reform will be mentioned quite often in Georgia's election campaigns next year.

There was a major development in the issue last Saturday with the narrow passage of a healthcare bill by the U.S. House. All seven of Georgia's

Republican House members voted against it and it's safe to say that each GOP lawmaker absolutely hates this bill.

The House member who hates the measure the most could well be Rep. Nathan Deal of Gainesville. For Deal, that could be a good thing. Healthcare reform gives him a red-meat issue he can throw out to the Republican base in next year's primary election for governor.

Deal is campaigning hard for the GOP nomination but he still lags behind Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine in the early polls.

Oxendine has maintained that polling lead largely because of his success in appealing to the party's Christian

## Capital Impact

Tom Crawford



conservative voters. These are Republicans who oppose abortion, don't like the trend of immigrants moving into Georgia, don't believe Barack Obama is a native-born U.S. citizen, and support the idea that states can ignore federal legislation if they so choose.

Healthcare reform gives Deal a platform to make the case that he's just as conservative as Oxendine on nearly all of those issues.

During the House debate over the healthcare bill, Deal appealed directly to voters who

think "state sovereignty" trumps the authority of the federal government.

"What authority in the United States Constitution gives this Congress the right to mandate that every citizen must purchase a health insurance policy, and upon failing to do so shall be fined and possibly imprisoned?" Deal asked. "I think the answer to that question is — there is no such constitutional authority."

Deal also raised the specter of undocumented immigrants getting healthcare benefits under the Democrats' proposed plan.

"Make no mistake about it — illegal aliens will receive government-funded healthcare under this bill because

all they are required to show is a Social Security number and a name," Deal said. "If you think identity theft is a problem now, just wait until this bill passes!"

Deal doesn't need the healthcare issue to make his pitch to the "birthers" who believe Obama was really born in Kenya. He disclosed last week that he and several other House members will send a letter to the president asking him to release his birth certificate.

It's difficult to say how much ground Deal can make up in the governor's race by hammering the healthcare reform issue, but you can bet he's going to try.

Healthcare reform will also be front and center in the reelection campaigns of two

Democratic congressmen, Rep. John Barrow of Savannah and Rep. Jim Marshall of Macon.

Barrow and Marshall were among the 39 Democrats who voted against the healthcare bill in the House. They obviously think the vote will keep them in good standing among the conservative voters in their districts.

Their votes against the healthcare bill could also cause major headaches for Barrow and Marshall, however. Even in their conservative-leaning districts, there are thousands of Democratic voters who think healthcare reform is a good idea.

The more the two congressmen argue against healthcare reform, the more likely it is that a See **IMPACT** on page 12A

# Accomplishing extraordinary things for God, country

By Clarence Hill  
National Commander  
of the American Legion

Ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things. Simply put, that's who veterans are.

Young and old — rich and poor — black and white — and nearly every category in between, they are men and women who served or still serve America.

Some have endured great hardships, separation from family and drastically altered lifestyles. Some have

experienced the horrors of war. All sacrificed something so that we could enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Often their service did not end when they took off the uniform. A prime example is Marine Sergeant Klay South. By all accounts, he was an ordinary young man prior to joining the Marines.

Five years ago, on Veterans Day 2004, Klay found himself on the wrong end of an Iraqi insurgent's AK-47 during the second battle of Fallujah.

Shot in the face and leg, Klay also bore the brunt of a hand grenade that shattered half his face. After years of painful therapy and more than 40 reconstructive surgeries and procedures, Klay now has a titanium jaw, 22 false teeth, and a constant numbness throughout his face. But his story doesn't end there. Nor does his service to his country.

Klay now spends most of his time visiting fellow veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan in military hospital wards.

He delivers backpacks full of gifts such as iPods and portable Sony Play Stations, and organizes regular outings for wounded warriors at local restaurants. In fact, Klay has now made helping his fellow warriors his life mission. He is founder and president of an organization called Veterans of Valor, a small group that has helped thousands of men and women who have shed blood for this country.

Klay, an ordinary young man from Indiana, continues to accomplish extraordinary things.

And Klay is not alone. While far too many veterans are homeless or unemployed, it is no coincidence that corporate titans such as AOL's James Kimsey,

Federal Express CEO Frederick Smith and Viacom's Sumner Redstone honed their leadership skills in the U.S. military.

More ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things.

It would be a stretch to believe that these extraordinary accomplishments are mere coincidence and not due to the discipline, motivational skills, calmness under pressure and other leadership traits that are instilled in every man and woman that has served in the greatest military force on the planet.

Francis Currey was an orphan who grew up in a foster home in upstate New York. He enlisted in the Army in 1943, one week after he graduated from high school.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Sgt. Currey's unit was defending a strong point in Malmedy, Belgium. His platoon was forced to withdraw its position in favor of a nearby factory after German tanks advanced. Finding a bazooka in the building, Sgt. Currey crossed the street to secure rockets, while enduring intense fire from enemy tanks and hostile infantrymen.

Sgt. Currey and a companion knocked out a tank with one shot.

The sergeant then approached a German-held house and killed or wounded three enemy soldiers in the doorway with his automatic rifle. From his forward position, he saw five Americans pinned down from tanks and See **VETERANS** on page 2B

# Cleveland elected president

## 10 YEARS AGO

Nov. 10, 1999

THE SCORE was 41-6 in favor of the Bainbridge Bearcats, but the game will be recorded as a Bobcat win after Bainbridge Head Coach Bob Christmas revealed last week that an ineligible player has played in the Early County game.

THE SGA Warriors were upset 21-20 Friday night in Dawson by the Terrell Academy Eagles. While the impact of the loss was not fully felt until after a three way playoff Monday night in Dawson, the loss to Terrell effectively ended the Warriors' 13-year visit to the playoffs.

## 25 YEARS AGO

Nov. 15, 1984

BLAKELY'S new radio station WBBK-FM is scheduled to go on the air at 6 a.m. Friday morning, if everything goes according to plan, Wayne Foster, owner and engineer, announced Tuesday.

THE ECHS Media Center displayed a stalk of cotton and had a contest. Students had to guess the number of bolls on the stalk, donated by Ralph Balkcom Farms. Jewana Lowe won, guessing 153, with the correct boll count being 160.

## 50 YEARS AGO

Nov. 19, 1959

MRS. ANNETTE Suarez, well known Cuthbert clubwoman, was guest speaker at the annual Woman's Club luncheon here recently, held at the clubhouse, with the president, Mrs. Fred Brooks presiding.

DR. WILLIAM Ward Baxley, 56, prominent Macon physician and surgeon, and brother of Dr. W.C. Baxley of

## From our Files

News from the past

Blakely and Dr. Harry B. Baxley of Donalsonville, died of a heart seizure while attending the Georgia-Auburn game in Athens, Saturday.

ROSCOE Nash, president, and Jimmy Odum, vice president, of the Blakely-Union Chapter of the Blakely-Union Future Farmers of America, told members of the Blakely Rotary Club about their trip to the recent national FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

MR. AND Mrs. K.J. Hodges have returned from a few days visit with their son, Walter, in Longview, Texas.

MR. AND Mrs. Dick Barbree and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Barbree, of Atlanta, spent the weekend here with their mother, Mrs. R.L. Barbree.

## 75 YEARS AGO

Nov. 15, 1934

REV. R.L. Whitehead, pastor of the Blakely Methodist Church, and Mr. H.B. Ainsworth, member of the board of stewards, are attending the annual session of the South Georgia Conference in Macon this week.

MR. JOHN Underwood has been sick for several days this week at his home on Liberty Street.

## 100 YEARS AGO

Nov. 19, 1909

MESSRS. A.G. Powell, J.W. Callahan and Wade H. Powell petition the superior court to be incorporated as the Callahan-Powell Co. in this issue of the News.

MR. BERNARD Barksdale, an old Blakely boy and now in the drug business at Nichols, Ga., was a visi-

tor to Blakely this week.

## 125 YEARS AGO

Nov. 13, 1884

MARRIED, in Blakely on November 9, Mr. J.B. Shaw to Mrs. L.J. DuBose.

CLEVELAND is elected president. He carried the Solid South and Missouri, Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, Indiana and New York.

JUDGE Alfred Barksdale, of our town, was recently married to Mrs. Margaret Jones, of Clay County.

WHILE the boys were firing a cannon to celebrate Cleveland's election last Friday night, one of the small cannons burst. One piece hit Smith & Jones store and another hit in the side of the store of J.M. and R.W. Wade. No serious damage was done. Leave the wet sand out next time, boys.



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