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STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK



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Former Tar Heel battling cancer **B1**



Out of Our Past
Learn about happenings in Iredell's history **A4**

Monday, March 27, 2023

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Ken Marsh, commander of DAV (Disabled American Veterans); Chuck Harris, commander of American Legion Post 65; Dianne Wilson, president of District 11 Auxiliary; Terry Oglethorpe; and Rodney James, President of FOP 10 take part in the flag retirement ceremony.

Biden's DOJ keeps hard line in death row cases

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Rejon Taylor hoped the election of Joe Biden, the first U.S. president to campaign on a pledge to end the death penalty, would mean a more sympathetic look at his claims that racial bias and other trial errors landed him on federal death row in Terre Haute, Indiana.

But two years on, Justice Department attorneys under Biden are fighting the Black man's efforts to reverse his 2008 death sentence for killing a white restaurateur as hard as they did under Donald Trump, who oversaw 13 executions in his presidency's final months.

"Every legal means they have available they're using to fight us," said the 38-year-old's lawyer, Kelley Henry. "It's business as usual."

Death penalty opponents expected Biden to act within weeks of taking office to fulfill his 2020 campaign promise to end capital punishment on the federal level and to work at ending it in states that still carry out executions. Instead, Biden has taken no steps toward fulfilling that promise.

But it's not just inaction by Biden. An Associated Press review of dozens of legal filings shows Biden's Justice Department is fighting vigorously in courts to maintain the sentences of death row inmates, even after Attorney General Merrick Garland temporarily paused executions. Lawyers for some of the over 40 death row inmates say they've seen no meaningful changes to the Justice Department's approach under Biden and Trump.

"They're fighting back as much as they ever have," said Ruth Friedman, head of the defender unit that oversees federal death row cases. "If you say my client has an intellectual disability, the government ... says, 'No, he does not.' If you say 'I'd like (new evidence),' they say, 'You aren't entitled to it.'"

Administration efforts to uphold death sentences for white supremacist Dylann Roof, who killed nine Black church-goers, and Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev are better known. Lower-profile cases, like Taylor's, have drawn less scrutiny.

Please see **DEATH ROW**, Page A3

PAYING TRIBUTE

Iredell veterans' organizations retire FOP flag

SPECIAL TO THE RECORD & LANDMARK

A ceremony was held at the old FOP 10 (Fraternal Order of Police) facilities at 365 Dover Road. The ceremony was held to honor fallen officers from Iredell

Editor's Note

For more photos from the flag retirement, please see page A3 and online at www.statesville.com or on Facebook.

County and to retire the American flag and move it to the FOP's new facility on Wing Drive.

After opening ceremonies, the American Legion Post 65 Honor Guard, in conjunction with the Marine Corps League and the VFW, presented arms, fired three volleys and "Taps" was played by Ron Stewart from Bugles Across America.

The flag was folded and presented to Rodney James, President of FOP 10. It will be reinstated at the new facility at a later date.



The American Legion Post 65 Honor Guard, with the Marine Corps League and VFW, presented arms and fired volleys at the ceremony. From left are, Dean Roberts; Bob Waters; Eric Fergurson; Dick Camery; Richard Cimbric; Mark Armstrong; Luka Catrone and Daniel Farmer.

Iredell Rescue Squad honors members with annual awards

DONNA SWICEGOOD
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The Iredell County Rescue Squad ran more than 6,300 calls in 2022, and at the heart of each of those calls, was the men and women who, in many cases, are volunteering as they answer the call.

The squad, which has 43 volunteer members and 13 paid staff, honored those who go above and beyond in making sure they take

care of citizens of the community each time the tones sound.

And as the current members were recognized, another member was honored for his dedication to the squad and to the community. That recognition came via the Randy Jones Memorial Award.

The award is presented in honor of Jones, a member of the squad and the Cool Springs Fire Department. Jones died in 2003

in an automobile crash while responding to a fire call.

Chief Todd Lenderman said the recipient of the Randy Jones Award embodies the same spirit that Jones displayed. "It goes to a person no matter what I've needed they've always been there, day or night, I call them and they make it happen. This to me is the embodiment of what

Please see **RESCUE**, Page A3



DONNA SWICEGOOD, RECORD & LANDMARK

Todd Lenderman, left, chief of the Iredell County Rescue Squad, congratulates Gibby Jenkins as he was presented the Randy Jones Memorial Award Saturday. The award is on a table behind Lenderman and Jenkins.

Obituaries

No obituaries for today's edition.

Powerball

SATURDAY'S DRAWING
15-17-18-47-57-19

Weather

Partly sunny, morning showers
High 77 • Low 47
FORECAST • B3

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