

BICENTENNIAL continued from page one

tives and in similar roles have Ivy League degrees, but I wouldn't trade my upbringing in Monroe County for any degree."

Comer spoke of the things he was the proudest of, that he says might be taken for granted. Amongst those things were the school system, the county water treatment plant, hospital, airport, and golf course.

He also spoke of the strength and character that family-owned/operated businesses add to the community.

"We are self-sufficient people. We take care of our own, and we haven't often had a lot of outside help," Comer said. "The ten largest employers in our county are multi-generational family businesses."

Next, Senator David Givens took the platform, sharing fond memories of Monroe County when his Green County team often lost basketball games to the Monroe Falcons and pondered if the forefathers of the county knew that 200 years later, what they established would still remain.

Representative Bart Rowland spoke as well, saying that his family has been part of the county for 110 of the 200 years and that there is no place he'd rather live and work.

Sid Hale, well known in Monroe County for his efforts to preserve and cherish memories and history of his home, spoke. He was quick to say he was not a historian but shared a brief history of the county and state. He began by saying that Kentucky was known as the 'dark and

bloody grounds' because the Native Americans came here to hunt. In the 1780s settlers settled in areas known as Fountain Run, Meshack, and Watson's Store (later Tompkinsville). In June of 1792, Kentucky was officially formed, and on January 19, 1820, Monroe County was formed from parts of already established Barren and Cumberland counties. The county was named after President James Monroe.

"I don't know who coined the phrase 'home is where the heart is', but I know they were right. If you were born in Monroe County, if you moved to Monroe County, if you spent any time here at all, it is in your blood. And it got in your heart. I am so proud to be an America, I am so proud to be a Kentuckian, and I am so very, very proud to be a Monroe Countian."

Shelia Rush, the Director of Old Mulkey State Park also took the platform to talk about the exciting events that will be held throughout the year, in conjunction with this momentous celebration.

"They say it takes a village and there is no better village than this," Rush said.

Events will begin in March and will take place through October when the grand finale of a Blue & Gray Ball will be held. An exhibit about the life of President James Monroe will be on display at various locations. Rush stressed her excitement about the extensive and diverse list of events and expressed great emotion and excitement for all events*.

However, one event



One of the events this year will be a battle re-enactment. Rush kicks up her heels in a happy dance with a soldier.

seemed to tug at her heartstrings the most.

On August the 21st, Monroe County will observe the Korean War and its local history. When Rush met with the Korean Veterans, she asked what would make the event memorable and special to them, and Jerry Agers suggested that it would be something if they could see a "Huey" helicopter again because they were all in one at some time or another.

"The sound of a Huey meant that help was on the way, it meant that wounded comrades were being saved, it meant that they got to come home," Rush said. It was no easy task, but Rush took it upon herself to locate a Huey, and not one, but two will be coming for the event. Those who wish may take a ride in a Huey helicopter. Rides will be \$50, but it is one of the few associated events with any cost at all. Other highlights of the event were children dressed as pioneers singing "My Old Kentucky Home", the signing of the proclamation, and the unveiling of the bicentennial cake, built by students at the Monroe Vocational School, assisted by the children of Wee Care Daycare.

Rush encouraged the crowd to take part in all of the events and to participate throughout the year, while at work, school, and play.

*The events are too numerous to mention in this article, however, in February a complete listing of the events taking place between March and October of this year will be in the Monroe County Citizen. More details can be found by visiting monroecounty2020.com. None of the events would be possible without sponsors, volunteers and supporters.



Karidee, Addisyn and Luke sang "My Old Kentucky Home" in period appropriate clothes that resemble what children wore 200 years ago.



Comer and Headrick shake hands as Rush watches.



Sen. David Givens with Mr. Headrick who headed up the kick off event and served as the emcee.



Rush was full of excitement and exuberance during her presentation of events.



Comer spoke eloquently and sentimentally about the place he calls home.



Bart Rowland spoke with pride of his Monroe County home.



Sid Hale gave a brief history of Monroe County.

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SIX FROM THE FAB FOUR

- ACROSS 1 Approach intrusively 7 Lamenter's sound 11 Process of going bad 19 Attach with heat, as a patch 20 Heart sections 22 When shows are broadcast 23 Butler or maid 25 Fish also called a largemouth 26 Mop 27 At that point 28 CNN anchor Burnett 30 China's Mao -tung 31 1960s reform movement in China 38 "Sid the Science Kid" network 41 Tracker maker, once 42 Convert to the Koran's religion 43 Chevy model 45 Suffix with towel 48 Korean, Thai or Chinese 52 Precipitating heavily 57 Big Apple sch. 58 Off-white 59 March composer John Philip 60 Cease 61 Lives (in) 63 It lures fish 65 Loss of memory 67 Posed (for) 68 "Stop thinking of me as so naive" 74 "— recall ..." 75 Headlined 76 Dying words from Caesar 77 Inflicts upon 79 Honshu sash 80 Small piece 83 Ad biz prize 87 Collaborator 88 Person in the third decade of life 91 Frantic scramble 94 Correct copy 95 Hitchcock classic 96 Light blue avenue in Monopoly 100 Neat — pin 101 Announcer Hall 102 American flier with scarlet patches 109 Special time 110 Tabula — 111 Postal letters 112 Get in return 116 Person petting 120 What the last words of 23-, 31-, 52-, 68-, 88- and 102- Across are 124 Unusual 125 1983 Streisand film 126 Holy rings 127 Property of a magnet 128 Solar output 129 Fully ready DOWN 1 Bails out, e.g. 2 Brag loudly 3 Unconscious state 4 Final non-A.D. year 5 "Mayday!" 6 Blast source 7 — Picchu (Peruvian site of Incan ruins) 8 Alternative venue 9 Game 10 Zip 11 Mouth liquid 12 Billy Joel hit 13 Planet Mork came from 14 Suffix with social 15 Ad- 16 Rare violin 17 Undercoat for painting on wood 18 West German city 21 People who mimic "What's — ya?" 24 "What's — ya?" 29 Brother or aunt: Abbr. 32 Tangelo trademark 33 Tilts one's body toward 34 Bank claim 35 Fleur-de- 36 Israeli arm 37 Poke fun at 38 Conduit 39 Coll. hotshot 40 Motivate 44 Island near Venezuela 45 College Web site suffix 46 Set- (sharp fights) 47 Old United rival 49 Oklahoma oil city 50 Mosaic work 51 Certain skin bulge 53 "You — see this!" 54 — Martin (cognac) 55 British queen 56 "Beware the — of March!" 61 Coke Zero alternative 62 Witch's blemish 64 Secy., e.g. 65 Moreover 66 Vapor 68 Land in water, in Italy 69 Use, as a tool 70 Sweat of one's — 71 "Kill — killed!" 72 Hold in check 73 Small state ruled by a sovereign 74 Eve's man 78 Actor Max von — 80 Rocker Barrett 81 CBS drama — Na Na 82 Turn rancid 84 Pet parasites 85 With a sharp picture, for short 86 Hymn start 88 Epithet for Alexander 89 Be a ratfink 90 Alexia I, e.g. 92 Jackie's hubby #2 93 Offense 97 Almost 98 Six-pt. plays 99 Cry like — 100 Amply skilled 102 Rounding 103 Bards' Muse 104 Singer Hall 105 Oven maker 106 Spiteful 107 Passes idly, as time 108 Dryly funny 113 Slaughter of baseball 114 James with a Pulitzer 115 Discreet call 117 MPG monitor 118 Chaplin's title 119 — -fi flick 121 Always, poetically 122 Oldies group — Na Na 123 "Tonka" star Mineo

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-129.

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