

# Clinton resident welcomed home with fanfare

By Guest Columnist Lynn Porter

After over a hundred days in local hospitals, Clinton resident Linda Gee (or “Ms. GeeGee,” as she is fondly known by many) was welcomed home by the Clinton community, her Southern Oaks neighbors and her First United Methodist church friends and colleagues.

Gee was an innocent victim of a horrific car accident that took place on January 10, when two individuals stole a car. The driver of the stolen car was killed on impact. For months, Linda fought for her life with her husband, Don, by her side when he was allowed to be. Prayers continued through days, weeks and months, with Linda going through many surgeries and procedures.

When word got out to her neighbors that Linda would be able to come home, the Southern Oaks neighborhood came together to make sure it would be a celebration to remember. Soon, Linda’s church family, First United Methodist Church, co-workers from FUMC Preschool and other members of the Clinton community joined in. The reflection of the Clinton community was shown with adults and children who didn’t even know Ms. GeeGee coming out and welcoming her home.

Their, neighbor Tom Smith, made sure there were plenty of yellow rib-



bons on the trees in the Gees’ yard and on the mailbox. Tom also helped Don by lending him a handicap van to bring Linda home. Penny, Claire, and Madeline Holmes started making posters, blowing up balloons and decorating the street in front of the Gees’ house, with their love expressed through chalk drawings. Neighbors

Jay and Beverly Jones’ five-year-old grandson, Colton, stayed up past his bedtime the night before making a poster for “Ms. Gee’s” homecoming celebration. Kaytlin Brooks, 12, had been in Ms. GeeGee’s preschool class, so she, her sister Kinley, and their mom Tiffany made several welcome home signs. Other neighbors and friends soon joined in. The doxology and a prayer was led by David Steveline, First United Methodist Church, in front of the Gee’s home.

The celebration was enhanced by the generosity of Clinton Fire Chief Jeff Blackledge furnishing a fire truck at the front of the subdivision and Police Chief Ford Hayman having several police cars escort Gee from the front of the subdivision. The celebration was a complete surprise to Linda.

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