

Red Smith

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younger years, I am not the least surprised. He dated one girl, but realized quickly that he was more interested in her sister. In fact, he thought, "she's the girl for me." Elizabeth Louise Gilley, better known as Betty Lou, must have felt the same, but her father did not approve. One day while he was away at work, they slipped over to the Clinch County Courthouse, and Mrs Audrey James pronounced the nuptials. Betty Lou's father would have to adjust, the deed had been done.

Soon after came the draft! Mr Red and thousands of other young men were sent to various bases depending on their branch of service, all with the knowledge that the Korean War was approaching. Mr Red chose the Air Force and was sent to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. This was the beginning of seeing the world beyond South Georgia.

The young men were tested and quizzed and challenged both mentally and physically for several weeks; Mr Red must have shown high proficiency in management and administration. No, he didn't take part in the Korean War as expected, rather he was placed as the man in charge of "men's clubs". I thought I had misunderstood him, so I asked again; yes, men's clubs, two distinct types, one for the enlisted

men and the other for officers. I suggested that he must have been charming and a socialite, but he solemnly explained that it was simply the job he was given. He ordered every item needed for the clubs, whether food or drink, or fine liquor. He made the decisions; his work was excellent, and he was found to be trustworthy, so his superiors moved him from one base to another, all with similar responsibilities.

During the next 22 years he and Betty Lou had 2 children, a son, Dan, and a daughter, Leslie. They traveled the world. The children attended American schools at bases in England, Germany, Japan, and lastly Tehran, Iran. Mr Red retired as a Master Sergeant.

As Mr Red approached retirement from the service, he became much of an entrepreneur. He first worked in Mississippi with some friends from the service. They managed a liquor dealership; Mr Red was the supervisor at their warehouse. I asked him how he handled procuring so much liquor over the years; did it affect him personally. He said he learned quickly that hard drink was not for him; I suspect that added to his success managing clubs and dealerships.

After some time Mr Red was interested in selling property and became a realtor. He and his sweetheart moved

to Florida where the real estate market was booming. He worked with Century 21 for 18 years; he was successful in that venture as well.

Mr Red and Betty Lou decided to retire in Homerville and at age 62, they began to live even more of their dream. They chose to travel all over the United States, first with a camper, and then later with a motor home. After many years, when the motor home became harder to handle, they traveled in their car. Mr Red said fondly that sometimes they would pack a bag, get in the car, and start riding, deciding on the road where they would go. They had so many adventures and happy times together; this slowed down when Betty Lou became sick. When she passed away in 2013, they had been married 64 years.

Thirteen years have passed since her death. Mr Red said that when he gets lonely or feels down, he remembers the joys of being on the road with Betty Lou, of serving his country, and of raising 2 children while traveling the world. He is at peace with his life and thankful for his many varied experiences and blessings.

Added Information

- Mr. Red and Betty Lou once lived in Jesup, Georgia.
- Betty Lou, herself, was a respected business woman. She had advanced and steady employment over the

- years,
- At one time Red was an insurance agent.
- When they lived in Homerville, they attended the Shiloh Methodist Church.
- For a short time Red was a chaplain's assistant in Iceland.
- His daughter, Leslie, had 6 daughters; his son, Dan, had 2 children, a boy and a girl.
- Dan lives in Arkansas and comes to see his father monthly.
- His daughter died of breast cancer at age 42.
- Mr Red has 23 great grandchildren.

Things I Have Learned

No one lives a pain free life. Losing a daughter at age 42, and then his wife later in life, brought immeasurable grief; it's the price of love. He has dealt with some depression these last few years, but he's choosing to look back and draw on many good memories. I am reminded that I have happy memories that I can revisit as well.

I asked if he had any advice for me or others. He said to live a clean life, and to be good to people, two simple suggestions that account for any life well lived. What a joy to be acquainted with such a thoughtful and wise gentleman. He has made the world a better place

CMH honor

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Pediatric Readiness Center.

A Level III Pediatric Readiness Center is equipped to provide the initial evaluation, stabilization, and treatment of critically ill or injured children while coordinating timely transfer to higher levels of pediatric care when necessary. For families in Clinch County, however, the designation means something more personal: it means expert pediatric emergency care is available close to home when every minute matters.

"Achieving Level III Pediatric Readiness status ensures that when a child arrives in our emergency department, our team is prepared with the training, equipment, and protocols needed to provide immediate, evidence-based care during some of the most critical moments of that child's life," said Kellie Register, Chief Clinical Officer at Clinch Memorial Hospital. "I am incredibly proud of this accomplishment as a member of our leadership team, but even more so as a mom raising children in our community. I have complete confidence in our emergency department team and would trust them to care for my own kids and their friends. This designation provides families with the reassurance that high-quality pediatric emergency care is available close to home when it matters most."

Clinch Memorial Hospital continues to distinguish itself as a leader among Critical Access and Rural Hospitals across Georgia. In recent years the hospital and its leadership have been honored by multiple health care organizations for the strides it has made in enhancing care and setting a standard of excellence in rural healthcare.

The Level III Pediatric Readiness Center designation reflects Clinch Memorial Hospital's longstanding commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare in rural Georgia. The hospital's focus on clinical excellence, innovation, and community service has earned recognition from healthcare leaders across the state.

Among those honors, Hometown Health named Clinch Memorial Hospital its Hospital of the Year in 2019. Additionally, Chief Executive Officer Angela Handley was recognized as Chief Executive Officer of the Year in 2018, while Chief Clinical Officer Kellie Register received Nursing Executive of the Year honors in 2024.

"This accomplishment demonstrates what can happen when rural hospitals invest in their people and build strong partnerships," said Handley. "We are incredibly proud of our team and grateful to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Mercer University School of Medicine, the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, and the Clinch Memorial Foundation for supporting this effort."

"Most importantly, we are proud to serve the residents of Clinch County and the surrounding communities. While we celebrate this achievement and appreciate the recognition it brings, we also recognize that there is still important work to do. Clinch County has never had a practicing pediatrician, and access to healthcare remains a challenge for many families in our community. I want our residents to know that we understand those needs and remain focused on finding ways to address them. Our entire team is committed to being the very best we can be. Every day we work to provide high-quality care, expand access to services, and build confidence in the healthcare available close to home. This designation is an important step forward, but it is not the end of our journey."

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Community Development Block Grant - Redevelopment Fund Program (Post Award Hearing) CDBG# 25RD-y-032-1-6812

The Clinch County Board of Commissioners will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Clinch County Commission Office, 22 Court Square, Suite B, Homerville, Georgia 31634, for the purpose of discussing the approved activities of the County's Community Development Block Grant - Redevelopment Fund Program. On May 4, 2026, Clinch County was awarded a grant in the amount of \$936,600 to support asbestos abatement, demolition, and site clearance of dilapidated structures at the former Homerville State Prison.

The items to be discussed at the Hearing include:

- The amount of funds received and a description of the activities
- The amount of funds available for each activity and the amount of funds that will benefit low- and- moderate income persons
- The plan, if applicable, to minimize or prevent displacement of persons and the plan to assist persons whom may be displaced
- Fair Housing laws and Clinch County's plan to further Fair Housing

The Public is invited to this Hearing to become informed of the project activities.

Clinch County is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. For a reasonable accommodation please contact Pam Welch, County Clerk, at (912) 487-2667.

If you need an alternative format or language, please contact Pam Welch at (912) 487-2667.

Persons with hearing disabilities may consider using the Georgia Relay Service, at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or 1-800-255-0135 (Voice).



AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Programa de Subvenciones para el Desarrollo Comunitario - Fondo de Reurbanización (Audiencia Posterior a la Adjudicación) CDBG# 25RD-y-032-1-6812

La Junta de Comisionados del Condado de Clinch realizará una AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA el miércoles 22 de julio de 2026, a las 10:30 a.m. en la Oficina de la Comisión del Condado de Clinch, 22 Court Square, Suite B, Homerville, Georgia 31634, con el propósito de discutir las actividades aprobadas del Programa de Fondos de Reurbanización de la Subvención Comunitaria para el Desarrollo del Condado. El 4 de mayo de 2026, el Condado de Clinch recibió una subvención por un monto de \$936,600 para apoyar la eliminación de asbestos, demolición y limpieza de terrenos con estructuras en mal estado en la antigua Prisión Estatal de Homerville.

Los temas que se discutirán en la audiencia incluyen:

- La cantidad de fondos recibidos y una descripción de las actividades
- La cantidad de fondos disponibles para cada actividad y la cantidad de fondos que beneficiará a personas de ingresos bajos y moderados
- El plan, si aplica, para minimizar o prevenir el desplazamiento de personas y el plan para ayudar a las personas que puedan ser desplazadas
- Leyes de Vivienda Justa y el plan del Condado de Clinch para promover la Vivienda Justa

Se invita al público a esta audiencia para informarse sobre las actividades del proyecto.

El condado de Clinch se compromete a brindar a todas las personas acceso igualitario a sus servicios, programas, actividades, educación y empleo, sin importar raza, color, origen nacional, religión, sexo, estado familiar, discapacidad o edad. Para una adaptación razonable, por favor.

Si necesitas un formato o idioma alternativo, por favor contacta a Pam Welch al (912) 487-2667.

Las personas con discapacidades auditivas pueden considerar usar el Servicio de Retransmisión de Georgia, al (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 o 1-800-255-0135 (Voz).

