

DAHLONEGA REMEMBERS BELLA LYNN

Isabella T. Lynn, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force Retired

November 19, 1926 - February 28, 2015

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to our friend, Bella Lynn. She died quietly at home on February 28, 2015, after a long period of declining health.

Born on November 19, 1926, Isabella T. (Bella) Lynn was the daughter of Col. and Mrs. Edison A. Lynn. Raised in a military family, Bella moved wherever her father's duty took him.

In 1957, Bella received her own commission as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force as part of the Air Force expansion during the Korean War. She served on active duty for 26 years retiring in 1976. The American flag we fly on the days we open the 1884 Jail Museum to the public is the one that was given to Bella when she retired from the Air Force.



DDA's Donna Logan presenting the commendation

In 1977 she settled in Dahlonega because, she said, she loved interesting old buildings, and Dahlonega has its fair share of old buildings.

Bella is best remembered in Lumpkin County for her research into the history of those old buildings. She and Madeleine Anthony, Dahlonega's most ardent promoter, invested their hearts and their hard work into the preservation and revitalization of downtown Dahlonega. Bella coordinated a small group of volunteers who did the research necessary to get all of the old buildings around the public square listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010, Bella was presented a plaque by the Downtown Development Authority commending her "For Special Service To Downtown Dahlonega." Her research records are now housed in the Archives at the University of North Georgia.

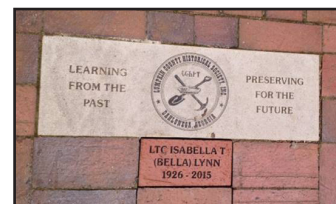
Bella was a great friend of the Gold Museum, housed in the 1836 courthouse in the center of the public square. She was squarely behind the Friends of the Gold Museum and nominated them for the Humanitarian Award given by the Georgia Council on the Humanities. She wrote a very compelling nomination letter endorsed by the Mayor and the Department of Natural Resources supervisor of the Gold Museum. They did not win, much to her disappointment.

It was one of her passions to see that the building and its grounds were tastefully and traditionally adorned with greenery for the Christmas season. She provided the greenery and directed the museum's staff in its placement. The Friends of the Gold Museum and the Lumpkin County Historical Society jointly placed a brick in her memory in the Gold Museum's pavement centered under the Historical Society's brick.



Former President Larry Scott presenting a Certificate of Appreciation

Bella was a charter member and life member of the Lumpkin County Historical Society. For many years she was an avid supporter of the Society, making it her responsibility to see that the Society had interesting programs while not losing sight of its motto, its reason for being: "Learning from the past, preserving for the future." She encouraged members to research the people, places and events in Lumpkin County for presentation to the Society. She served as program chairman for many years, and was always available to guide, support and advise newly elected officers.



In 1990, one year after the Madeleine K. Anthony Award was established by the Society to honor the spirit of her friend, Madeleine, Bella received that award for writing and publishing walking tour guides to Dahlonega's historic districts, and donating them to the Chamber of Commerce for distribution to the public. In successive years, she received certificates of appreciation for personally guiding

"Once Around the Square" tours for the Society and friends.

A member of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, she was awarded the Georgia Trust Preservation Hero Award while they were on a ramble to Dahlonega in July of 2011.

It went against the grain for her to hear the public square referred to as the "town" square. Bella believed that it was important for people (especially the Chamber of Commerce staff) to remember the historical function of a public square as a place for peaceful assembly and public forums. To that end, she donated the historical marker that is installed on the public square, explaining its purpose. It is the most-read historical marker in Dahlonega.

One of Bella's great friends tells us that besides her valuable presence in Dahlonega's public eye, she was a "back-door philanthropist." She quietly helped many in need, and they will always remember her kind generosity.