

# Gilmer Republicans hold Christmas Party and 2nd Amendment Celebration.

By George McClellan, Chairman, Gilmer Co. GOP

Gilmer County Republicans held their December meeting on Tuesday, Dec 1st, at the Gilmer County Bank Conference Center on Industrial Boulevard in Ellijay. In a departure from the norm, the gathering was a combined Christmas party and celebration of our 2nd Amendment. Over sixty people attended including six Republican candidates for the US 9th District Congressional Seat to be vacated by Nathan Deal. State Senator Chip Pearson was also in attendance to support the effort.

A covered dish supper with turkey and ham provided by the Republicans, accompanied by all the trimmings of a traditional feast brought by volunteers, complemented the entire festive event and provided plenty of good eats. The blessing was provided by Bonnie Williams who focused like a laser beam on the serious problems America now faces and asking our God, as Christians, not to abandon us yet.

The program of the evening omitted the usual business associated with such events and was limited strictly to having a good time, even in the face of our country's woeful situation, socially, economically and politically. The guest speaker of the evening was State Representative Tom Graves who limited his remarks to a description of the history of the creation and development of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, focused especially on the 2nd Amendment.

The Gilmer GOP, to show its support for the 2nd Amendment (the right to keep and bear arms) raffled off a new 20 gauge Remington, 870 Wingmaster pump shotgun. The winner was not present but was notified by telephone of his win. In addition to the shotgun raffle, several door prizes were given away by drawing names. Rachel and Naomi Thompson, the two lovely little daughters of Aaron Thompson, an active member of the Gilmer GOP, drew the names of the door prize winners. Door prizes included Glenn Beck's latest book, *Arguing with Idiots*, our own Oscar Poole's book *There's Only One Oscar Poole*, Sara Palin's new book *Going Rogue*, a large party serving plate, two cake platters and a carving set.

9th District Congressional candidates attending included Dr. Bert Loftman, Gilmer County native Mike Evans, Jeremy Jones from Ringgold, Bobby Reese, Bill Stevens from Cumming, and Tom Graves. Local's included Glenda Sue Johnson, Gilmer Co. Clerk of Court, Melba Bennett, Tax Commissioner, and J.C. Sanford, Gilmer Co. Post 2 Commissioner.

Finally, a successful event cannot be accomplished without a combined team effort of the leadership, especially Rita Odom, Gilmer GOP Treasurer; Don Murray, Gilmer GOP 2nd Vice Chair and Chairman of the Christmas Party committee; Jerry Tusso, Gilmer GOP 1st Vice Chair; and Sally Forest, 9th District Secretary and Gilmer Co. member.

Others present from the GOP 9th District were current Chairman, Doug Grammer, Past Chairman Kevin Harris and Assistant Treasurer Louise Little.

The next meeting of the Gilmer County GOP will be held January 5th. Speakers will include 9th District candidates Mike Evans and Dr. Bert Loftman from Pickens County.