



# Dixie Town Crier

Dixie's monthly chapter newsletter  
dedicated to the original town crier,  
Chuck Witherspoon



May 2014 Volume 6, Issue 5

Steve Wixson reporting

## Choo Choo Chorus Again Sings For New Citizens

The **Choo Choo Chorus** (Chattanooga Chapter) was once again invited to sing as more than 100 people from 34 countries became citizens of the United States. The chorus has sung at several of these ceremonies over the last few years.

With Judge Collier presiding at the U.S. District Court in Chattanooga, 51 individuals became citizens at the April 4 morning ceremony, with a similar number naturalized at the afternoon ceremony.

The chorus sang the National Anthem at each ceremony. After the new citizens took their oath and the judge gave a welcoming speech, the chorus sang "God Bless America". Director Paul Blazek noted the song was composed by a Russian immigrant, Irving Berlin. Several chorus members said it was difficult to sing after the emotional welcoming speech.

Many chorus members stayed afterwards to welcome the new citizens and to ask them to show off their certificates.



*David Crenshaw reporting*

## Atlanta Vocal Project Entertains Southern Colonels Conference at Governor's Mansion

The Atlanta Vocal Project performed at the Georgia Governor's Mansion on April 15, 2014, for the Southern Colonel's Conference, a gathering of top officials from state police and

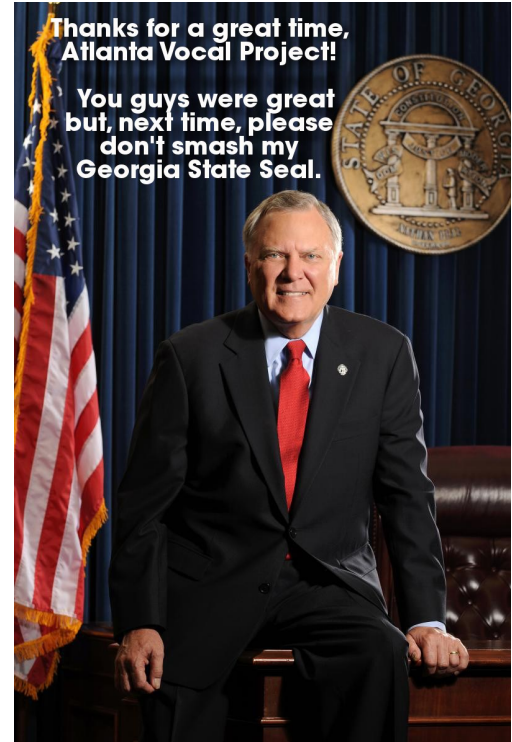


highway safety in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas. Governor Nathan Deal specifically asked for AVP to entertain the dinner event for nearly 200 of the country's top law enforcement officials.

It was a rousing event that included:

- The longest ever walk-in vamp introduction of "Tuxedo Junction".
- A first-ever barbershop rendition of the Georgia State Patrol Anthem.
- A lively "This Joint is Jumping" that may or may not have involved a tumble of the GA State Seal.
- An attempt of sabotage by a certain pitch blower.

What a great honor and privilege it was to sing at this prestigious venue for such important guests!



The Memphis Men of Harmony Present  
**"HOBOS'N HARMONY"**  
Saturday, May 3rd - 7:30 pm.

St. Benedict At Auburndale High School  
8250 Varnavas, Cordova, TN 38016



All Seats Reserved @ \$18.00 each  
(Groups - 10 or More \$15.00 ea)  
Students \$12.00

**FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION**

CALL 901-466-6516 OR AT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.MemphisMenOfHarmony.com](http://www.MemphisMenOfHarmony.com)

*David Belden reporting*

## Music City Chorus Spring Show Had International Feel

Nashville's **Music City Chorus** held its Spring show on April 26, and the event had a definite International Contest feel. The venue for the matinee and evening performances was the Cornerstone Church, which included three giant video screens. The audience was able to get up close and personal with each chorus member (which emphasized for chorus members the importance of total involvement, 100% of the time, when on stage).

The two shows also allowed the chorus to preview its contest set. While the set is still a work in progress building toward the July 4 performance in Las Vegas, the audience was extremely enthusiastic in its response.

The audience also had the chance to enjoy several quartets who are headed to the Las Vegas contest. **TNS**, **MC4**, and college competitors **The InsurGents** all brought the crowd to its feet. Also singing were **7th & Broadway** and **Dark Horse**.

### **NASHVILLE CHAPTER NOTES:**

- The quartet '**Round Midnight**, which features Nashville chapter member Wayne Grimmer, has again qualified for the International Contest.
- **Lunch Break** will attempt to qualify for Las Vegas when they sing in the Sunshine District qualifier.
- **The Music City Chorus** and quartets will repeat their spring show on May 8 for the residents of the Del Webb Lake Providence community in Mount Juliet, TN.







**ATLANTA VOCAL PROJECT**

# Spring Show & Silent Auction

**Saturday - May 17 Shows at 2 & 7 PM**  
Doors open 1 hour before show

**Award Winning Men's A Cappella Chorus**



**Atlanta Vocal Project**

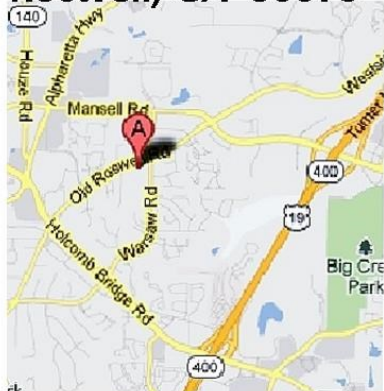
**A Mighty Wind**



**# 3 Quartet in the World!**

Also featuring **other quartets** and **special guests...**

St. David's Episcopal  
1015 Old Roswell Rd  
Roswell, GA 30075



### Auction Items

- ◆ Exotic Trips
- ◆ Gift Certificates
- ◆ Sports Items
- ◆ Art/Collectibles
- ◆ Gift Baskets
- ◆ And MORE!

Please contact us if you have an Item you can donate to our auction.



Light snacks, beer & wine will be available

### Help send AVP to International Contest in Vegas!

Tickets are \$20. (Discounts for seniors, students & children)  
Call to reserve a VIP table or for group pricing.



Order online: [www.AtlantaVocalProject.com](http://www.AtlantaVocalProject.com)  
Order by phone: 404-919-SING (7464)

David Crenshaw reporting

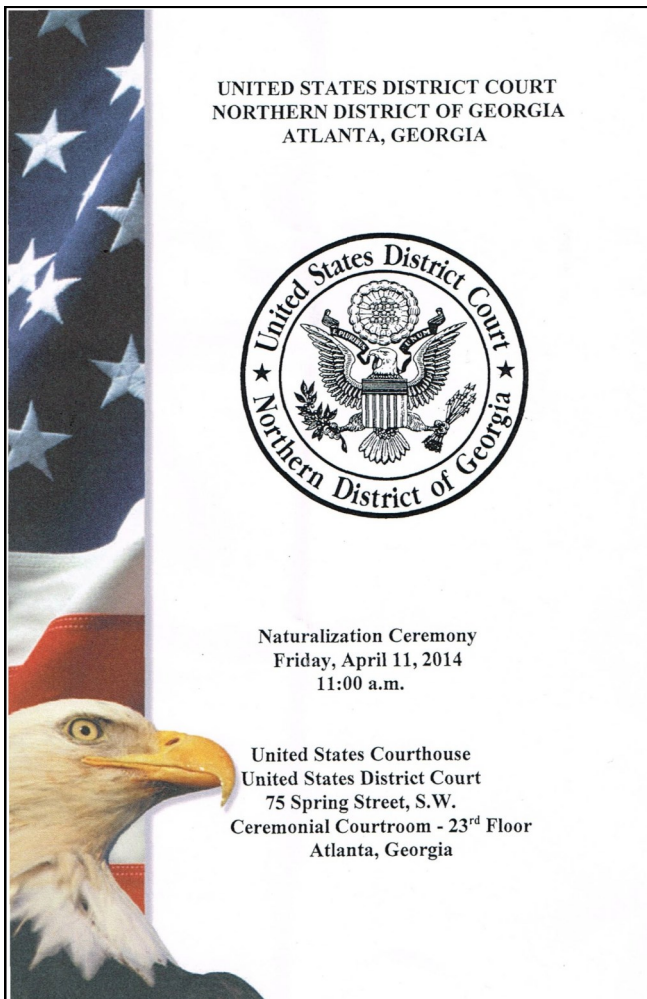
## Atlanta Vocal Project Welcomes 161 New Americans With Song

On Friday, April 11, 2014, the **Atlanta Vocal Project** sang at the United States District Court Naturalizing Ceremony in the Richard B. Russell Federal Building in downtown Atlanta, GA.


A group of eight **AVP** members opened the ceremony with the National Anthem and closed the ceremony with "God Bless America".

It was a touching and very memorable moment to welcome 161 new US Citizens from 50 different countries to the freedom and golden opportunities of American citizenship. The Honorable Steve C. Jones presided, and the beautiful and very intelligent, Hang Tran, the first Vietnamese woman to ever hold an elected office in Georgia, gave a stirring speech about the opportunity of being an American citizen.

Everyone from the security guards to the Judge seemed to be wowed by the beautiful harmonies of our patriotic songs done barbershop style. It was a special day for our new fellow citizens and for **AVP**.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



Naturalization Ceremony  
Friday, April 11, 2014  
11:00 a.m.

United States Courthouse  
United States District Court  
75 Spring Street, S.W.  
Ceremonial Courtroom - 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA NATURALIZATION CEREMONY Friday, April 11, 2014	
Open Court	Honorable Steve C. Jones United States District Judge
Presentation of Colors	Sons of the American Revolution The Piedmont Chapter Atlanta, Georgia
National Anthem	Atlanta Vocal Project
Announcement re: pictures	Honorable Steve C. Jones
Present motions	Sandy Strippoli Assistant U. S. Attorney U.S. Department of Justice Atlanta, Georgia
Roll Call	Sandy Strippoli Assistant U.S. Attorney U.S. Department of Justice Atlanta, Georgia
Execution of Order	Honorable Steve C. Jones
Oath Administered	Pamela Wright Courtroom Deputy Clerk
Pledge of Allegiance	Honorable Steve C. Jones
Guest Speaker	Hang Tran, Councilwoman City of Morrow, Georgia
Recognize visitors	Honorable Steve C. Jones
God Bless America	Atlanta Vocal Project (To lead assembly in song)
Adjournment of Proceedings	Honorable Steve C. Jones

The Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
and Harmony Foundation is sponsoring the  
**2014 Harmony Explosion Co-ed Camp**



**A 3-day camp for young men and women in high school (and their teachers)  
who like to sing a cappella in 4-part harmony**

**with clinicians Clay and Becki Hine, and the award-winning quartets,  
*A Mighty Wind* and *Last Minute*, as teaching quartets**

**Thursday, July 17 through Saturday, July 19, 2014  
at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga**

**Note! The only cost for a camper is a \$100 fee. Music Educators who attend will be  
granted a full scholarship. Please register early. Registrations will be limited.**

Registration includes three days and three nights in the dormitory, all meals on site, sheet music and learning tracks, t-shirt, workshops on vocal techniques and song presentation, and rehearsal of six songs for performance on Saturday night performance for friends and relatives. Show will include performances by some of the best quartets and choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

**For more information contact your local barbershop chapter, or:**

**Jim Moore, Dixie District YIH VP, Barbershop Harmony Society**

**3385 Breton Court, Atlanta, GA 30319 404-255-0818**

**jamest\_moore@bellsouth.net www.dixiedistrict.org www.barbershop.org**





# Henderson Hood's Legacy Continues

**By: Jess Helton & Mitch Link; Northeast Tennessee Chapter  
April 2014**

Henderson T. Hood (Lead), 82, of Kingsport, TN entered chapter eternal on Friday, January 10, 2014. He was a beloved presence in the chorus for years and involved in various community initiatives. Henderson was an extreme people person. An inside joke amongst the chorus is that Henderson knew everyone, literally. One story goes that a bus indicating it was from Northeast Tennessee stopped somewhere out of state. A native of the area inquired if anyone happened to know Henderson Hood just by associating the bus to Northeast Tennessee. Needless to say, he enjoyed the company of others. Henderson always had a story to tell and no one he encountered was a stranger.

Our chapter realized Henderson's influence in our area as the chorus began searching for a printer for our show programs. According to Mitch Link:

"The owner of the print shop and I talked for a bit, changed a few things, and firmed up a very good price for the booklet. We talked a bit more about printing and he mentioned he was somewhat familiar with the chorus. He had known Henderson Hood and had grown up around Kingsport. We talked for a bit more about Henderson, shared a few stories and I mentioned Henderson "singing" at his own funeral. The owner smiled and said yes, he'd heard about that from his mom who was there! That led to more discussion which then turned to my asking about sponsorship or ads. "

"After a few minutes he said he'll take an ad for either a full or half page—depending on the room we have left, but regardless of size, we should charge him the full page price and we can use his ad for a "filler!" He is giving us \$100 off of the printing on any amount we print! I really believe the common thread of Henderson Hood is what brought this deal around in the long run. It made me smile. It truly felt that the spirit of our friend Henderson was there with the same helping hand for the Chorus that he always had. Thanks, old friend!"



## THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

An electronic publication of the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Dwain Chambers, President

Stan Peppenhorst, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Belden, Editor

Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is MAY 25. Submissions should be sent to:

[david.belden@comcast.net](mailto:david.belden@comcast.net)

*David Crenshaw reporting*

## Atlanta Vocal Project Sings with Georgia Tech Glee Club

The **Atlanta Vocal Project** had a blast singing with the Georgia Tech Glee Club on the evening of Monday, April 21, 2014. We just wish those guys wouldn't be so serious and try to have a little more FUN!



AVP particularly enjoys singing for college and high school students and exposing them to the art of barbershop. We have added some of these young fellows to our group over the past few years.

What a great surprise during the show to have our own Zack Dunda jump up from his seat and sing a solo of "Brown Eyed Girl" with the Glee Club! He was awesome!

**THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER, CHORUS,  
AND QUARTET NEWS FOR THE JUNE 1 ISSUE  
IS MAY 25!  
SEND YOUR NEWS TO  
[DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET)**