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'YEAR OF SMALL TOWNS AND DOWNTOWNS'

Level Plains celebrates heritage



By Casey Strickland
Sun-Courier Staff Writer

The Town of Level Plains celebrated the 45th anniversary of its incorporation on April 30 with a ceremony which included the unveiling of the town's new historical monument.

The celebration marked the town's participation in the Year of Small Towns and Downtowns program, begun in 2008 by Gov. Bob Riley.

"We are proud to join 214 other cities across Alabama, including the cities of Daleville and Ozark in Dale County, to celebrate our heritage in 2010," Level Plains Mayor Tyrus Waters said as he introduced special guests who attended the event including State Rep. Steve Clouse and State Sen. Harri Anne Smith.

Waters also recognized the family of the town's first mayor, James A. Waters Sr.

The families of councilmen Ray E. Averett, Jessie C. Thomas, Charles R. Waters, James E. Waters, Obetus J.

Local residents and officials unveil an historical marker for the town of Level Plains. (Photo by Laura Fezie)

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People in attendance turn towards the flag as the National Anthem is played before the Level Plains 45th Anniversary Celebration April 30 as part of the Year of Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns. (Photos by Laura Fezie)

Heritage

Continued from Page 1

Waters and city clerk Walter L. Waters were also recognized.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams—whose grandfather, S. Kirke Adams, served as Dale County Probate Judge and granted the incorporation of Level Plains on April 30, 1965—delivered special remarks at the event.

"I do know if my grandfather were alive he would be here," Adams said. "He would be here to celebrate this anniversary of Level Plains. I know he took his job as probate judge seriously...but he enjoyed talking to people and helping communities."

Adams said his grandfather enjoyed seeing the town progress.

"I know he took pride in watching Level Plains incorporate and become a town," he said. "He obviously saw the same vision that those who came to incorporate saw—to make Level Plains a community that would grow."

Adams said he has taken notice of how the community has grown in the years since it incorporated.

"I know what proud families, citizens and traditions we have in Level Plains," he said. "There are so many families and history in Level Plains, and it takes something like this to get everybody together, but what an honor it is to unveil this marker and what a good sign it is that you have this many people from other towns and communities to celebrate this with you."

Adams said he was proud to celebrate the momentous occasion with the town's residents.

A short history of the town was read, and a list of its seven mayors was included.

Adams and the families of the town's founders pulled the cover off the town's new monument, which honors the town's benefactors, founders and history.

Councilman James Bullinger, who was the chairman of the celebration, read



Daleville Sun-Courier staff writer Casey Strickland speaks about the history of Level Plains during the event.

the monument's panels before the mayor delivered closing remarks and recognized the town council and town clerk Pat Wambles, the police and fire departments, court clerk Kim Baker and

the town's Water Department.

"The town employees make business run smooth in Level Plains, and we appreciate them so much," Waters said.