

Modern-day patriotism

Women honor U.S. independence through Daughters of the American Revolution

By Lisa Merryman
THE BATTALION

When Natalie Younts visited her great-grandmother, Lois Younts, in a nursing home, she left wanting to make America a better place and honor her ancestors in the process. "I saw all these plaques on (my great-grandmother's) wall that showed she was a member of these various elite groups, including the Daughters of the American Revolution," said Younts, a senior journalism major. "After learning of my great-grandmother's affiliation with the Revolution, I wanted to honor her through becoming a member myself."

Younts said she was so interested in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) organization that she began researching it via the Internet and soon became a member.

According to www.dar.org, any woman who is at least 18 years of age and can prove lineal, blood line descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible for membership.

Dr. Jane Cohen, a former professor at Texas A&M, currently serves as president of DAR's LaVillita Chapter, centered in College Station.

According to Cohen, DAR promotes patriotism through historical research, conservation and participation in patriotic celebration of American history — something she is no stranger to.

During a DAR conference in Washington, D.C., Cohen marched down Constitution Avenue with an American flag, leading 50 other women who marched with their state flags.

"Viewers were very appreciative of the parade," Cohen said. "A speaker at the conference said DAR was patriotic before patriotism

was popular. Patriotism is definitely key to our purpose."

Cohen said DAR meetings provide members with a forum for camaraderie, education and a chance to set community goals.

"For more than 100 years, DAR members have shown a love for our country," Cohen said. "The bond that connects us is our ancestors who fought for freedom."

Dr. Tammy Tiner, LaVillita Chapter's Good Citizens Committee chairman and a professor of organic chemistry, joined DAR when she was 19 year old through the influence of her mother. Tiner said she remembers accompanying her mother to cemeteries to catalog graves at age 4, and has known DAR for most of her life.

"I believe it's important to honor the sacrifices our forefathers (made) in their quest for independence," Tiner said.

Tiner said the benefits of DAR membership have been "incredible." In addition to meeting and bonding with other ancestors of Revolutionists, Tiner educates children about their ancestors

through Children of the American Revolution (CAR). Sponsored by Daughters of the American Revolution, CAR is something Tiner is passionate about.

"Providing leadership to this children's organization is important to me because our children and youth are the future of our country," Tiner said.

An interest in her ancestors was the driving reason Younts became an active DAR member last month.

"Our ancestors fought and died for our freedom," she said. "I felt like being a member of DAR was the best way to honor them for their service."

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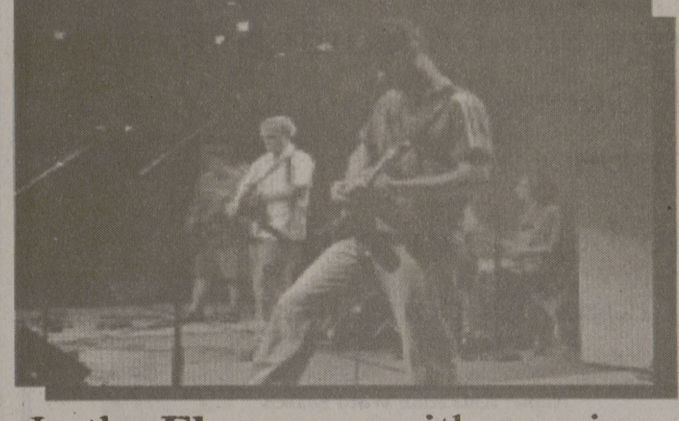


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